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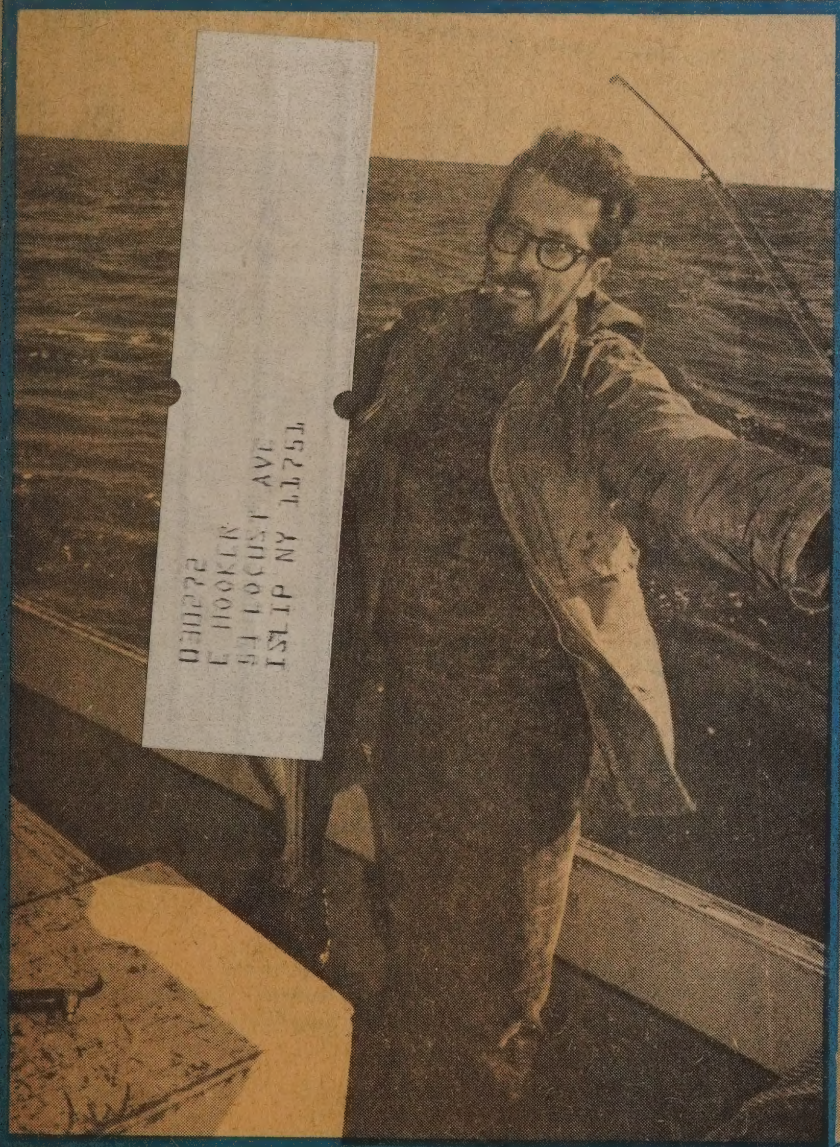
The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

MAY 26th, 1977, ISSUE No. 19



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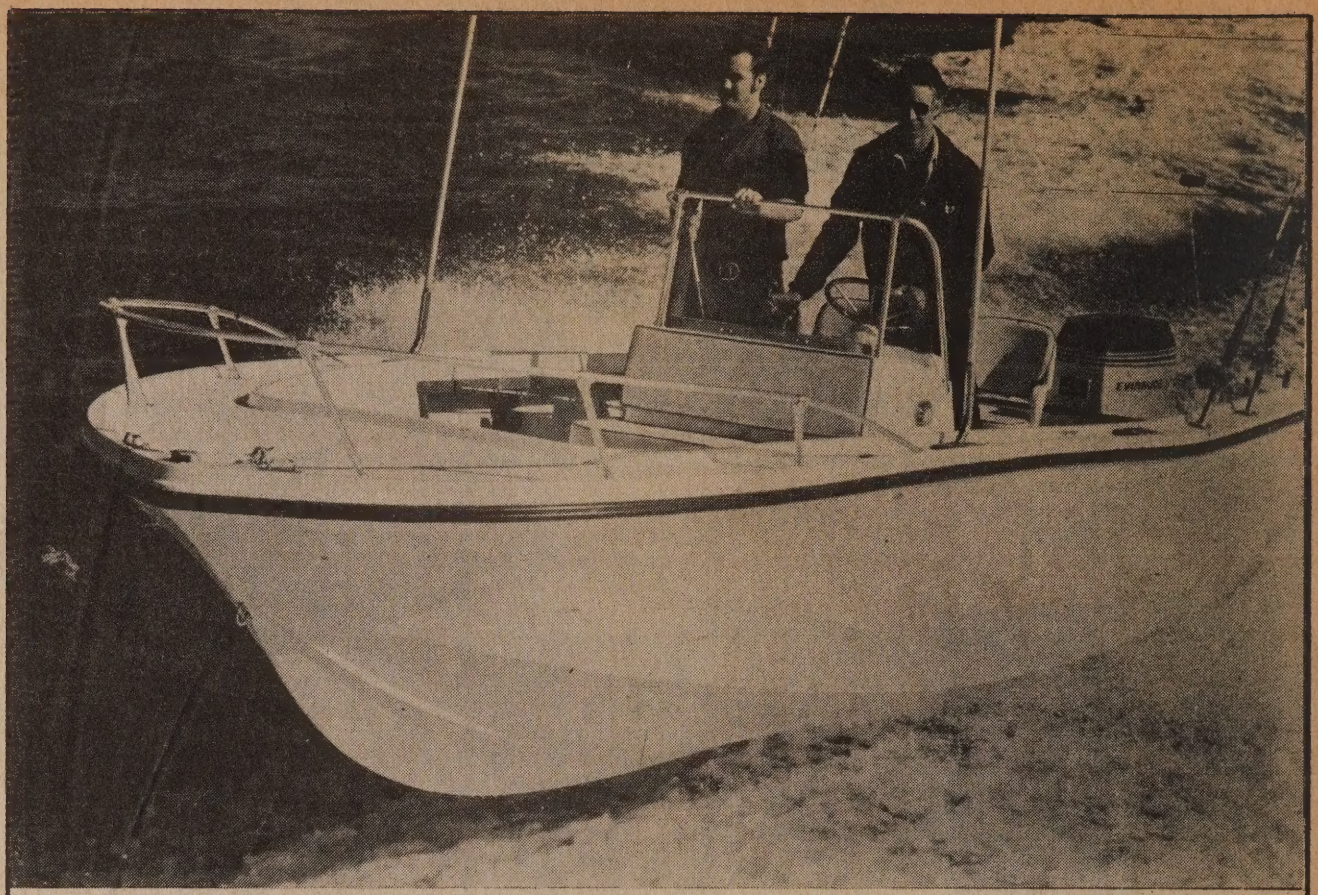

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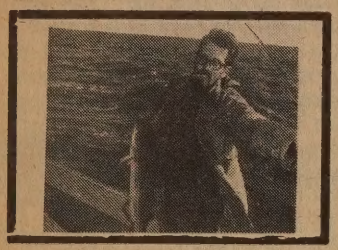
VOL. 12, No. 19 MAY 26th, 1977

FEATURES-

Fish Talk:
FLUKE ..... Dr. Wm. A. Muller 12
Sinker Bouncing:
HOW TO FILLET FLUKE ..... Matt Ahern 14
SurfSide:
CASTING FOR WEAKFISH ..... Fred Schwab 16
BLOWFISH & PUFFERS ..... Fred Guardineer 17
Inshore Fishing:
WEAKS AT NIGHT IN THE PECONICS ... Scott Simons 18
STRIPED BASS FISHING Pt. I ..... Capt. Ron Onorato 20
DIAMONDS ARE FOREVER ..... Dr. Wm. A. Muller 22
MAINLAND WEAKFISH ..... Capt. Fred Golofaro 24

DEPARTMENTS-

Editorial 4
Club News 6
Chum Lines 6
Pass It On 7
Skillful Angling Award 10
Krazy Kaptions 11
Fishing Reports 26
Litter Box Contest 29
Classified 52
Tide Tables 55



About the Cover—

Scott Simons with nice bass taken on an Ava diamond jig aboard John DeMaio's charterboat "Vivienne" last fall. See "Diamonds are Forever" on page 22 of this issue.

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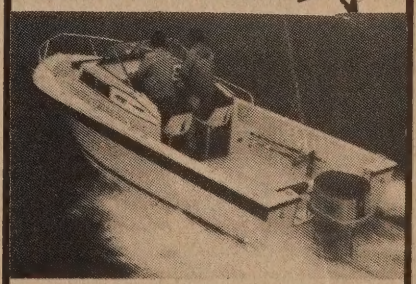

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★ EDITORIAL ★

STRIPED BASS LEGISLATION

Three bills were drafted and introduced into the State Legislature this year by Save Our Stripers. These Bills are:

S.4962,A.7246—Gamefish Bill
S.4964,A.7255—Sanctuary Bill
S.4966,A.7254—P.C.B. Bill

The Long Island Fisherman is opposed to both the Gamefish Bill and the P.C.B. Bill and we have serious reservations about the Sanctuary Bill. We take this position without any intention of inferring that S.O.S. and its members are not sincerely motivated by a desire to take positive action on behalf of the striped bass. However, we disagree with the approach.

Many fish are cyclical and we have gone through periods when it was tough to catch weakfish, blowfish, fluke, and bluefish. The past two years, for example, has marked a decline in the number of weakfish that are caught by hook and line. Does that mean that we should elevate every species that suffers a decline in numbers to the gamefish status? Or is the striped bass a sacred cow for reasons too ethereal for this reporter to understand?

Hell, we're bass fishermen too, but we can't equate an end to our reduced recent bass catches to gamefish status. Striped bass are everybody's resource and the only way to maintain satisfactory population levels is through proper management. We do not believe that gamefish status represents proper management. In To Stem The Tide (subtitle: Effective State Marine Fisheries Management) edited by R. Marcelli and R. Mathhews, Dr. Frank E. Carlton of The National Coalition For Marine Conservation outlines the criteria for effective management.

1. Commercial sportfishing conflicts are characterized as temporary in nature. Therefore, effective management must be timeless. That is, management must transcend temporary political and social pressures.

2. Management solutions must have the capacity for change. That is, these management efforts must be flexible enough so that they can respond to new data relevant to the fishery.

These comments by Dr. Carlton were made specifically for "The northeast Atlantic striped bass problem..." Dr. Carlton believes that the only effective way to manage striped bass is on the national level since the fish is migratory and because the abundance or lack of abundance of this species affects the economic and recreational aspects of many people in many states. We agree!

What form should this management take? Well, much more sophisticated research is needed before a comprehensive management plan can be established with some degree of certainty that it will be effective. But the directions will have to be related to life cycle as well as harvesting factors. The 16-inch limit in New York State is the kind of management legislation that can be effective. The law was the result of knowledge that striped bass spawn for the first time at a size slightly under the 16-inch limit. Thus, the thrust of the legislation was to delay harvest until the fish have had a chance to spawn at least once. But perhaps an 18-inch or a 20-inch law would be more effective? Perhaps setting a minimum mesh size requirement for haul seining and gill netting operations would also be effective if it were enforced up and down the coast? And perhaps our earlier predictions will come true and that by 1980 we'll be knee deep in school bass?

Look, we can be wrong and if we are we'll eat crow when the time comes. But we think we're right! We've tried to look at the gamefish problem objectively instead of emotionally. We try to place the desire to catch an unlimited quantity of striped bass on every trip out of our heads. When we did that we could not defend the Bill in good conscience.

We are also opposed to S.4966,A.7254 (P.C.B. Bill) because the solution to the P.C.B. problem cannot be found in the prohibition of the sale of fish. The data does not support that opinion for striped bass. Unlike mercury and D.D.T. there is no correlation between size and amount of the chemical in the fish. You could catch a twenty or thirty pound bass and the P.C.B. levels might be below even the new more stringent proposed tolerance level of 2 parts per million. On the other hand, you could catch a 16-inch fish that might far exceed the F.D.A. present standard of 5 parts per million. There simply is no way to tell. Thus, we believe that the F.D.A.

should issue a warning that some bass may contain levels of P.C.B.s that would exceed the recommended tolerance level. Thus, they could suggest that people restrict their intake of striped bass. Thus, if a sportsmen made a choice to release the bass he caught because he or she elected not to consume them, he could also feel completely comfortable in ordering striped bass the next time he or she visited a favorite sea food restaurant.

In like fashion, fishermen who may only make an occasional trip for the species, could comfortably keep the fish taken on those trips and consume them.

We are also deeply disappointed in the Sanctuary Bill (S.4964,A.7255) for several reasons. First, the Bill would require that the Department of Environmental Conservation would establish a sanctuary management program for striped bass on the spawning grounds. Therefore, individuals and/or industries, municipalities, utilities, etc., who plan activities in the spawning waters would have to file environmental impact statements with the department. We do not object to the concept of protecting the spawning grounds. In fact, we have expounded on the virtues of habitat protection at great length. However, we do not believe that this Bill is practical. Does the Bill require that every Hudson River angler fishing for bass in these waters file an impact statement. However, our **most** serious concern is that a gamefish status section also appears in this Bill. We wonder why there is a need to contaminate a well-intentioned if perhaps slightly inept piece of legislation. Furthermore, we understand, from the official literature recently mailed to fishermen by S.O.S. that the Sanctuary Bill will not be pushed at this time. Instead it will be held back so that if the other two Bills fail that the third can be flung into the ring as an afterthought with the hope that a sympathetic legislature, fatigued and anxious to go home to families prior to legislative recess may find their way clear to approve it.

Well, first of all if a Bill is worthy of support it should be defended up-front because its usefulness can be justified. Second, the implication is that S.O.S. puts its priority on gamefish status. Third, by tacking on the gamefish rider to the Sanctuary Bill, we believe that any chance of passage has been already thrown to the wolves.

We recommend that fishermen do not support these Bills. We ask that all anglers sit down and think this issue through with intelligence not emotion. Sure it's an emotionally charged problem but it will only be solved by reason. Reason, that separates man from the rest of the beasts of the jungle!

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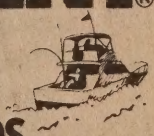

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CLUB NEWS

ATLANTIC BEACH ROD AND GUN MEMBERS

Jessie York on his boat, fishing with his son J.J., and Harry Ross, found the weakfish and what they liked on Saturday. They caught 20 weakfish from four to ten pounds. The bait was sandworms, drifting, hooks were tied direct to line, with a small lead shot about three feet up the line. The area was Hecksher Park.

He called over Tony Siniscalghi, fishing on his Black Fin with Chris Vitugci, Clif Felenious, and Larry Kravits, who were catching nothing with the plastic shrimp. He gave them a few sandworms, and they wound up with six nice fish, four to ten pounds. On Sunday, Tony went back with his own bait and caught fifteen fish, four to ten pounds.

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LEGISLATORS SUPPORT DR. MULLER'S NOMINATION

Thank you for your recent letter bringing to my attention the excellent qualifications of Dr. William A. Muller for a seat on the Middle Atlantic Regional Fisheries Management Council.

It would be my pleasure to write on Dr. Muller's behalf. Accordingly, I have written Governor Carey to endorse the nomination of Dr. Muller to the Council.

Please feel free to contact me again about other issues of concern to you.

Best wishes to you. *norman f. lent, Congressman, House of Representatives, Wash., D.C.*

I have received your recent letter concerning Dr. William A. Muller's qualifications for a seat on the Middle Atlantic Regional Fisheries Management Council, and thank you for it.

I have been pleased to write to Governor Carey, requesting his enthusiastic support for Dr. Muller.

Pleased to have this opportunity to express my interest on behalf of Dr. Muller and the Long Island Fisherman. *John W. Wydler, Congressman, House of Representatives, Wash., D.C.*

We appreciate your having taken the time to write, and your interest; please be assured that we will look into the matter. *Stuart J. Gordon, Admin. Ass't. to Daniel P. Moynihan.*

Thank you for your letter in behalf of Dr. William A. Muller, a candidate for a seat on the Middle Atlantic Regional Fisheries Management Council.

While I can appreciate your support for and recommendation of Dr. Muller, it is my policy not to recommend people with whom I am not personally familiar for any position. Because of the voluminous requests of this nature I receive, I feel it is only fair to the people whom I do know well, to confine my endorsements to those individuals. I am sorry that I cannot comply with your request to write to Governor Carey, but I do wish you and your candidate well. *Edward I. Koch, House of Representatives, Wash., D.C.*

Thank you for contacting me on be half of Dr. William A. Muller. I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to be of service in this matter.

I am enclosing a copy of correspondence being sent to Governor Carey, asking for his efforts and support on behalf of Dr. Muller. Should the Governor respond I will be sure to let you know. In the meantime, if I can be of further assistance in the matter, please be sure to contact me. *Mario Biaggi, M.C.*

Thank you for your May 6th letter indicating your support for Dr. William A. Muller to be appointed to the Middle Atlantic Regional Fisheries Management Council.

Please be advised that I have forwarded a copy of your letter to the Governor's office with my encouragement.

If I can be of any further service to you, please feel free to call upon me. *Geo. J. Hockbrueckner, Member of Assembly.*

ONE STRIPER—THREE REPRIEVES

How can a bass have three lives? It can happen and it did. My wife, Bridget and I, are members of the A.L.S. and we release almost 100 percent of our catch, which is in the neighborhood of between 100 and 200 bass each year. We tag as many as possible according to the tags we have at hand.

One evening in the Fall of 1975, my wife Bridget received a telephone call from Seth Rosenbaum. Here was a stranger who immediately became a friend, because he caught one of the stripers my wife Bridget had tagged. Now, my wife and Seth have something in common. They share an experience in the taggers world which is quite exciting. They talked about fishing techniques, the size of the fish when it was released and captured, and the normal chitchat that goes on between two fishermen. Seth, being a member of the A.L.S. himself, released that tagged bass, giving the fish its second life. Not having tags with him that day, he released the fish with its existing tag, which was the tag Bridget had originally put on the fish. Incidentally, Seth is a systems analyst in N.Y. and recently wrote an article in the A.L.S. Underwater Naturalist bulletin on Octopus. This is how Seth was able to get my wife's name and telephone number. He memorized the tag number and called a friend at the A.L.S.—interesting?

It was the early Spring of 1976 when my wife Bridget received a notice from the A.L.S. that this same bass was caught again at Northport. This time it was caught by someone we all know, Vito Orlando, a great sportsman and writer of many interesting articles in the L.I.F. Through correspondence by mail and telephone with Vito, we found out that he had re-tagged the bass with his own tag and released it. Isn't that ironic. This striper received three leases on life.

This story is true and it is written with the hope that this will encourage other fishermen to do a little bit for their sport. The bass is an endangered specie, and every bit of help to preserve the bass and other fish will give the fisherman years of good fishing. The gratification and excitement you enjoy when one of your tagged fish is captured somewheres far from where it was released, is very fulfilling. The knowledgeable and friendly sportsmen you come in contact with, is another aspect that makes tagging worthwhile. Put a little meaning in your fishing and try tagging them. The contribution you make may seem small, but it is one way we have of studying the habits of our fish and hopefully, by education and controls, we can help that specie survive.

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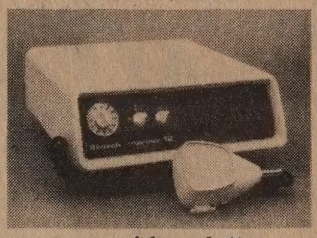

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The American Littoral Society is collecting fish for environmental research and needs help from sport anglers. Representatives of nine species caught commonly in New Jersey waters are required.

The Society is cooperating in this project with the Sandy Hook Laboratory, National Marine Fisheries Service, which needs speciments to test for the presence of heavy metals (cadmium, chromium, lead, etc.), petroleum hydrocarbons, and PCBs.

Anglers who are interested should be prepared to try to catch at least 8-10 fish of one species and then alert the Laboratory at Sandy Hook so that transportation of the fish to the Lab can be arranged.

The fish species sought are (with desired weight in parenthesis): cunner (any size), black drum (10-20 pounds), American eel (brackish water—10-20 inches), fluke (summer flounder—1½ to 2½ lbs.), northern kingfish (1/4 to 1/2 lbs), white perch (1/3 to 2/3 lbs.), northern puffer (blowfish—1/3 to 2/3 lbs), sea robin (any size), and tomcod (1/3 to 2/3 lbs.).

Fish must be caught within the same general area (2-3 miles) within one to two days. They should be wrapped individually in plastic bags and refrigerated. The fish should not touch metal. The Sandy Hook Lab should then be phoned: 201-872-0200, ext. 55 or 59, to arrange for transportation of the fish. Or phone the Littoral Society at 201-291-0055.

The Lab will prepare the fish for analyses, to be conducted by the NMFS Biological Laboratory, Milford, Ct. Results of the study will be made public. In all, the Service will sample about 40 species, whose range is from Florida north to Cape Cod.

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COD	25	SEA BASS	3

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WANNA CATCH FLOUNDER?

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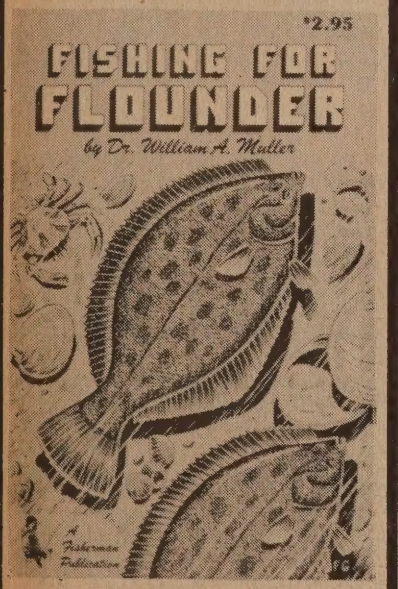

Here it is at last, hot off the presses! The first book EVER to be printed exclusively on techniques for catching the winter flounder. Separate chapters cover topics such as baits to use, rigging-up, scientific information, chumming techniques, how to locate flounder, fishing techniques—all in greater detail than ever before! Also an entire chapter on how to clean and cook this table favorite and an extremely detailed "Where-To-Go" section that provides fishing maps, seasons, hotspots, baits and rigs to use in each area! Ninety-six pages fully illustrated with photographs and artwork by The Fisherman's own Fred Guardineer. Send for your copy today!

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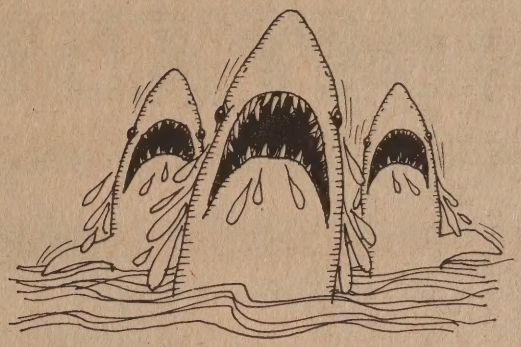

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Just make up a humorous *Krazy Kaption* for the cartoon pictured above and send it to *The Long Island Fisherman.* Entries will be judged by the staff of The Fisherman, and the person submitting the winning caption will win $20 worth of assorted fishing tackle and junk.

A new *Krazy Kaptions* will appear in the second issue of each month, along with the winning *Krazy Kaption* for the previous month. So send in YOUR *Krazy Kaption* today! Just cut out and mail your entry to:

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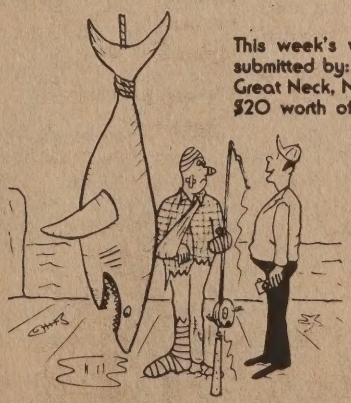
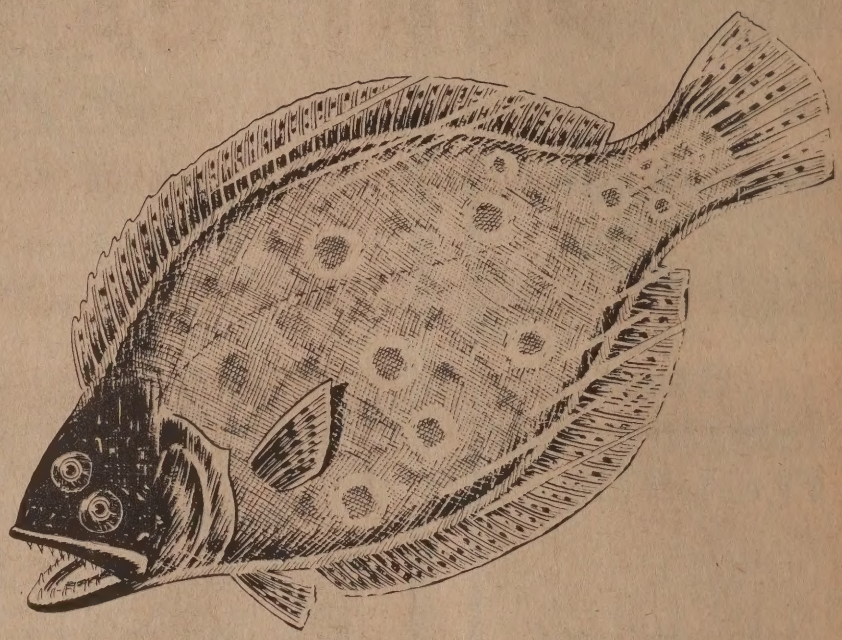


This week's winning KRAZY KAPTION was submitted by: Steve Winn, 69 Colgate Road, Great Neck, N.Y. 11023. Steve will receive the $20 worth of fishing tackle and other junk.

"Could you try that trick again when you had 'em jump into the boat with you? I missed the shot the first time."

Fish Talk
with Dr. W.A. Muller

FLUKE
Paralichthys dentatus



The Fluke Story is a long one, so we'll take a couple of weeks to unravel the story. I think that this week we'll look at the history of the fishery, and then in weeks to come we'll put an eagle eye on this species and try to find out what a fluke is; its life cycle; ecology, and life style. So, Scott Simons "fluke maven," you'd better read my column for the next few weeks.

FLUKE HAVE GONE THROUGH THE WORST of a cyclic depression that bottom out in the mid-sixties. They have returned in style to please anglers of all ages: but was the poor condition of the fishery totally the result of pollution and over-fishing?

JUDGE FOR YOURSELF. In 1938, the number of fluke caught per person, per fishing trip from open boats was 4.2. People who fished from charter boats and row boats accounted for 0.1 fish per person, per trip. However, by 1956, those numbers had ballooned to 11.2, 10.9, and 9.0 for open boats, charter boats, and row boats, respectively! Then, by 1960, those numbers had declined again to 6.9, 6.4, and 5.9 fish per person, per trip. The numbers continued to decline through much of the 1960s. The numbers are from a Long Island, N.Y. survey.

FLUKE ARE AN IMPORTANT COMMERCIAL fish, as well as the summer staple of the sportfishing crowd. In 1976, the total commercial catch of fluke was 3.2×10^6 lbs. Therefore, when fluke begin to decline, a lot of people begin to get upset. Thus, a decade ago, scientists, commercial fishermen, and sports fishermen began to look into the feasibility of artificially adding to the stocks of this species.

ONE EXPERIMENTAL APPROACH that was most interesting and unique, was undertaken by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. They attempted to spawn fluke in the laboratory. This was not to be an easy job, since it would be most difficult to duplicate the environmental conditions that exist at the time of natural spawning during winter, in about 50 to 55 fathoms on the Continental Shelf. Correct temperature values could be achieved with refrigeration, but the pressure of 55 fathoms of water (about 350 feet) would be a difficult parameter to achieve in an open experimental system.

HUMAN HORMONES USED TO INDUCE SPAWNING! It was reasoned that the gonads of the fluke could be induced to ripen by giving the fluke, hormones that induce a similar response in man. The hormone, chorionic gonadotropin, induced the production of sperm and eggs, but these were not viable. Perhaps the fertilized eggs also needed the pressure generated by a large column of water? The time of these experiments was 1969-1970. It is reasonable to assume that the researchers would have solved the problem, even if it would have been a painful process; however, Mother Nature had other ideas.

FLUKE STAGE A COME-BACK! A combination of financial difficulties statewide, and the return of hordes of small fluke obviated the need for continued research. This may have been a mistake. To gain knowledge about our marine environment is always a useful pursuit, and we may regret the decision to halt the investigation.

RUSSIANS SIGN BILATERAL AGREEMENT! In the mid-1960s, the Russians and Americans signed an agreement that would protect a known wintering and spawning grounds south-southeast of New York City. Scientists had determined that fluke, porgies, and seabass winter-over in this area on the Continental Shelf where the water was about 50 to 55 fathoms. It is believed that the fluke spawn there, as well as winter-over; while porgies are believed to inhabit the waters for a winter hiatus only, and seabass are also present in the same oval-shaped area.

MANY SCIENTISTS ARE CONVINCED that the bilateral agreement was instrumental in reversing the downward trend of the cycles of all three species. This is not to say that these fish are without peaks and valleys in their cycles. Rather, the simultaneous increase in the stocks of all three species during the three or four years following the signing of the agreement, plus the coincidence of their previous simultaneous decline, convinced many that the restriction on winter fishing in the prescribed area by the Russians was a major factor in the recovery of these stocks.

LEGAL SIZE LIMITS HAVE THEIR VALUE TOO. It is believed that many sub-legal fluke that enter shallow coastal waters in late May, are of legal size by late summer. Furthermore, it is believed that fluke spawn for the first time when they are about fourteen inches. Thus, fish that are larger than fourteen inches when they arrive in shallow water, are believed to have spawned during that previous winter. The fourteen-inch legal limit then accomplishes two goals: first, it allows many fluke to spawn at least once before they are harvested; and second, it displaces the harvest of many fluke from the early part of the season to the latter part of the season. Thus, a more or less steady catch per unit effort can be achieved.

LOOKS LIKE A GOOD FLUKE YEAR! A recent discussion with Phillip Briggs, Senior Biologist at the DEC at Stony Brook, is the main source of my optimism. Phil was quick to point out, however, that his projection was his own personal opinion. Phil suggested that most of the fish caught this year should be legal, since there did not seem to be an overwhelming number of shorts last year.

Next week—characteristics.

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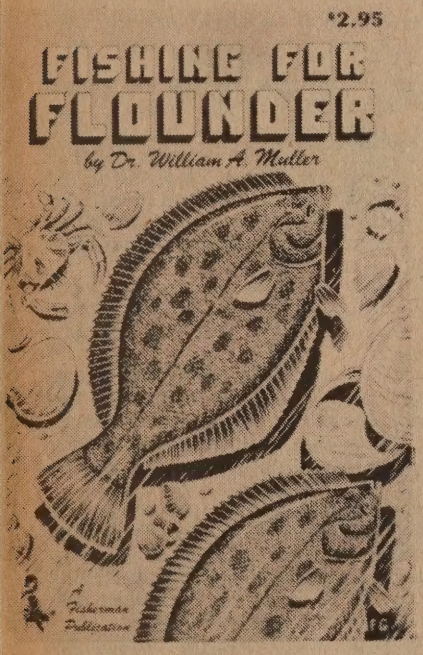

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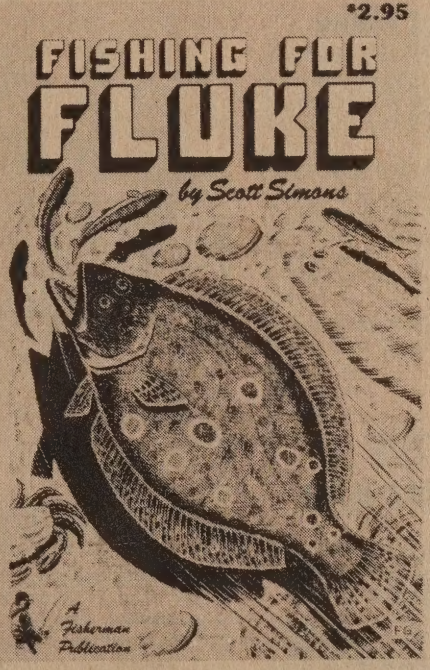

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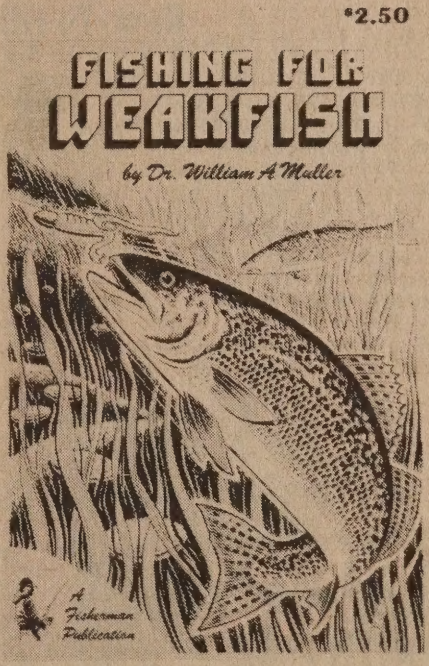

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With our fluke season about to get under way, now is the time to learn how to fillet fluke.

Regardless of what you've heard, it isn't difficult. Master it, and not only will you provide your family with many succulent meals this summer, the skill will help make you a well-rounded fisherman.

There are several methods used to fillet fluke and I suppose there are also just as many ways to accomplish this as there are to skin the proverbial cat. The method described here is the easiest of all those I've tried over the years. Unlike the technique used for winter flounder which produces two fillets from each fish, this one produces four.

Sinker Bouncing

with Matt Ahern

How-To Fillet Fluke

For our purpose, four pieces are best. As the average fluke is always larger than the average flounder, fluke fillets can sometimes be quite large. It is only on the commercial market where these large fillets are definitely desired. But if you should need two good sized fillets for a particular recipe, just check LIF Issue #11 of this year. There you will find instructions on flounder filleting. With slight modification, you can use this method on your fluke. A back copy can be ordered by checking information on Page Three of this issue.

The most important aid to successful filleting is a good knife—one made expressly for the job. Don't skimp on this. Kitchen knives will get you nowhere. As I've mentioned many times in fillet articles: if you wish to do a professional job, use professional tools. Keep it sharp by honing on a good caborundum stone—especially after nicking bone. A dull knife always produces frustration and ragged fillets.

If you intend to do your filleting in the kitchen, be advised to use plenty of newspaper to catch the drippings. You know who will appreciate it, too.

Never fillet fish on a stack of newspaper. It will stick like glue and soon have you gnashing your teeth. Use a cutting board. It can be any reasonable length, but should be cut from two-inch stock. This is necessary so that your knife-hand is free of the table. The one in the photo is 14x8x2, and I fillet all my fish on it—even cod! Scrub thoroughly when finished to keep it sweet and clean.

I always skin my fillets. I believe this makes for better taste and more appetizing appearance. Not only does skinning save a time-consuming job, the scales act as barriers to keep the sharp blade from cutting through the thin skin. If you'd rather leave the skin on, then scale first. If you dont't, you'll never remove the scales without tearing the fillets to shreds.

Resist the temptation to make speed. In that direction lies madness. Yes, I know you've seen or heard about fishermen who can whiz through a mess of fish in nothing flat. And they can. But resign yourself that you won't be able to do so for awhile.

Take your time and learn the art. Learn the difference in the bone structure of fluke and flounder and various other fish: each specie is different. This knowledge comes only with experience. **Then**, and only then, will you find speed becomes automatic.

It is a good idea to wash every fish before starting. This removes dirt, sand, and slime, which not only cause potential hazards to the fingers when handling a sharp knife—slips can and do happen—but the knife will keep its edge longer, with less honing.

Before proceeding with the first fish, study the photos and text. Nothing is put down without good reason. And remember when you start—slow and easy wins the race!

Photo One. Place fluke on board, as shown. Make a diagonal cut from the upper right shoulder to the center of the fish, stopping just below the small pectoral fin located near the gill cover. Note photo. Then make a cut along the center of the fish to the tail. You'll find a natural line or slight indentation to guide the blade.

Be careful not to dig into the bone. If you do, you'll quickly dull the blade's keen edge. Finish this slice, and then make a slight inward cut across the tail. This will help you remove the fillets more easily.

Follow this with a cut just aft of the gut cavity, starting at the long center line. Run this across the lower part of the fish to the outside fins. Glance at **Photo Two** for a quick reference. Avoid cutting into the gut by feeling the softness with your fingers. When these cuts are completed, your fish will be divided into two sections.

Photo Two. Place the knife blade at the apex of the cuts near the pectoral fin and begin slicing away the short fillet with short, deft strokes. Hold the fillet back as shown; this enables you to guide the knife, and produces smooth-looking fillets. Cut off at the fin line. Trim away any fin muscle that may adhere. You now have your first piece of fillet.

Photo Three. Reverse fish as shown. Start at the tail and slice toward the head, working from the center cut, once again holding the fillet away for ease of operation. Remove the fillet, and trim if necessary. You have now quickly and easily filleted the top side of the fluke—with no strain or pain.

Photo Four. Turn fish bottom side up. Make the same cuts as in photo One. Remove the long fillet by starting at the tail and working along the outside fin line to the center cut. It is then an easy task to remove the short fillet. You now have four fillets.

Not too difficult, was it?

Photo Five. Skinning is easy. Make a shallow cut about a half-inch in, at the narrow end of the fillet. Be sure you don't go through the skin. Use this short piece as a handle as shown in the photo. Then hold knife at an angle so blade is nearly flat and pull on the skin with short, sidewise motions. The skin will peel off in seconds.

Always keep blade clean when skinning. It is the bits and pieces of meat clinging to the blade that cause the fillets and skin to tear. You can avoid this by dipping the blade in water before skinning each piece.

Photo Six. Here's the way your four boneless pieces of fillet will look when you've completed the job. Just the right size for the pan.

Filleting is easy, so don't attempt to make it difficult by using heavy-handed methods. Remember, use a sharp fillet knife and take your time until you get the hang of it.

That's all there is to filleting a fluke. Honest!

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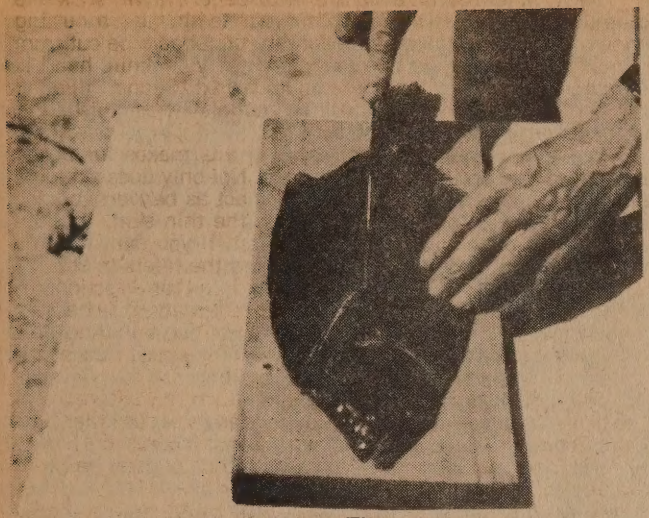


Photo One ... The start.

Photo Two ... Remove the short fillet first.

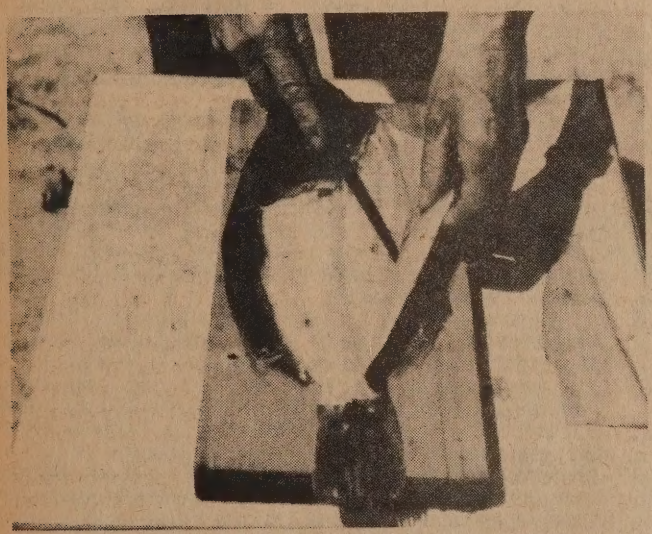


Photo Three ... Slice off all fillets at the fin line.

Photo Four ... Hold fillet back so that you may watch knife's progress.

Photo Five ... Make certain blade is kept wet and clean for easy skinning.

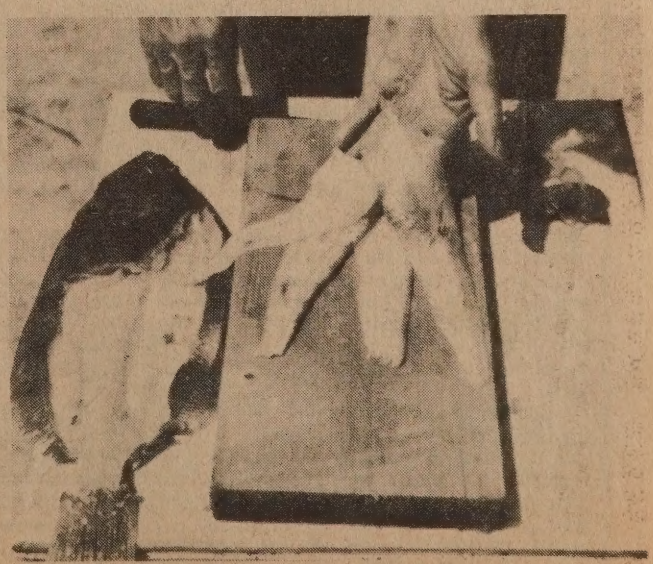


Photo Six ... The finished product. Nothing to it!

If you read the first two installments of this article, you will understand why this final chapter makes little reference to the earliest days of the spring run; fishing during daylight hours, and types of areas most likely to produce fish.

Before going on, one bit of repetition: while the use of light tackle, with six or eight pound test monofilament is the recommended way to go, it demands a reel having a smooth, dependable drag. If you purchase one at a low price, that's fine, but if it's got a lousy drag system—it's no bargain. I'm not saying that only the higher priced reels have good drag systems; not all do. Nor do I mean to infer that there are no inexpensive models having this feature, but in general, you get what you pay for. Regardless of what brand you buy, check out the drag mechanism first. Aside from the fact that a fair sized weak, pulling against a faltering drag, is fully capable of "popping' such light line, there is always the possibility of tying into a decent bass, bluefish, or even a doormat fluke while fishing for weakfish. So use a reel with an effective drag system, and take care of it.

CASTING FOR WEAKFISH

Part Three

When weakfish begin to establish a pattern of feeding at night, surface swimmers become one of the angler's most effective weapons. The Rebel and Red Fin lures are the most popular, and for good reason, they catch fish. While these are available in the "sinker" model, the lighter "floater" or surface types, with their superior swimming action, catch more fish.

The sinker models have their moments, but usually only when a swift current is present in comparatively deep water. I've found them to be useless in still or very slow moving water, and a headache to use in shallow and/or weedy areas; therefore, I seldom use that type. Having made that statement, it is pointed out that, except where noted, the following remarks, in general, pertain to the use of the surface models.

While the Rebel and Red Fin can be purchased in sizes as large as seven inches, the 5¼ inch (both makes), and the 4½ inch Rebel and four inch Red Fin are favored among weakfish anglers. Color preferences vary widely, and in this respect, the best advice that I can offer is to take along a variety, with the lighter colors being the dominant choice on bright nights, and the reverse being the case under dark conditions.

The size and design of the snap connection is a critical factor when using relatively small, lightweight, surface-action lures. There is a definite relationship between the size and weight of this important link, and the resultant swimming action of the lure. In short, the more hardware used, the less action achieved. While a swivel does solve the problem of "line twist," with respect to this type of fishing, its use does more harm than good. It's not essential; so don't use one. The ideal snap is one which, besides being strong, is lightweight, small, and simple to open. My preference is for the "Duo-Lock" brand, which is really nothing more than a piece of sturdy rust resistant wire shaped into a snap. The only problem that I have encountered with these is that on occasion one will be a bit out of shape and not close properly—a condition which is difficult to detect in the dark. To be certain that it has locked properly, rather than shine a light, I've developed the habit of probing with a fingernail after changing lures.

Turning again to the question of lure size. When fishing for weakfish in the relatively quiet water of a bay, I've had far greater success with the 3½ and 4½ inch Rebels, and four inch Red Fin, than with the larger 5¼ inch models. In fact, on a number of occasions, the smaller Rebel was the only thing that produced fish, and usually these were nights when the weaks were feeding upon shrimp or some other tiny bait, on or very near the surface. Of course, handling these featherweights requires favorable wind conditions, and even then casting distance is very limited, so the fish have to be fairly close, which fortunately, is "usually" the case. The Rebel is also available in 1½ and 2½ inch sizes, but I've been unable to cast these with standard light tackle gear. With a fly-casting outfit I'm sure they'd prove to be highly effective—if handled properly.

It is always advisable when fishing with light tackle, to set the drag lightly; but with weakfish, their characteristically soft mouth necessitates doing so. If the fish are hooked in the softer areas of the mouth and too much pressure is applied, there's a good chance that the hook will simply tear out. (Besides not being the sporting way in which to land a fish, what possible enjoyment can there be in horsing it in?)

While applying just enough pressure to maintain control and force the fish to expend energy, allow him to turn and run. It's my practice to fish with a "very" light drag setting, test it occasionally, and when I do hang a fish, pressure is applied by lightly placing a finger on the side of the spool. When a fish is taking line, never increase drag pressure by turning the adjustment mechanism.

While there are nights when fish will respond to a surface swimmer moved at a somewhat rapid pace, as a rule they produce best when retrieved slowly. The built-in action of the Rebel, Red Fin, and similar types such as the Hell Cat, is most evident when worked steadily but **very** slowly through a current or rip, and with light tackle a slight throb can be detected. In water where a current is barely discernible or when there is a total absence of movement, the speed and method of retrieve should be varied. Under such conditions, I've found that the smaller sizes of these lures are best, and that an occasional "slight" twitch of the rod tip will sometimes produce a strike.

In still water, until you've located fish, the wise thing to do is to systematically vary the direction of your casts. When standing in the water and conditions are such that you won't be interfering with someone else's fishing, cast in a half circle, at various angles, from one side to the other—and back again. By following this procedure you can cover a considerable area. At one location that I occasionally visit, casting can be done in a full circle, and I've taken fish in water between me and the beach.

Where a current exists, the standard procedure, regardless of what type of lure is being used, is to cast up-current at about a 45 degree angle. Since weakfish will often feed in extremely shallow water, it's usually advisable to work the lure right up to the moment of lifting it out. If after following this procedure for a while, nothing happens, direct a few casts straight out, just on the chance that the fish are a bit further out or down-current, and not moving about. But don't lose sight of the fact that the standard method of presentation is casting up-current and that a school of fish could be moving through at any time before the tide turns.

Recognizing that this final installment makes considerable reference to surface swimmers, it is again noted that bucktails, imitation shrimp, the small Spin-Atom and a number of other lures also catch weaks at night. Carry a variety with you, and use them. Don't insist on throwing the same lure all night, unless of course, it's catching fish.

You might want to save just a bit of room in your plug bag for a few selections to solve the following problem—that is, if it exists in the areas that you fish, and you haven't found a solution. What I have in mind are those nights in the quiet waters of a bay, when the fish are obviously feeding, but refusing the angler's offerings. Usually they're feeding on tiny bait and, more often than not, it's grass shrimp. On occasion the smaller surface swimmers have half-solved the problem for me, but usually the action that I've experienced was not representative of the number of fish obviously present and feeding.

I've been experimenting with a very small freshwater "Lazy Ike"; tried tiny Shad Darts and extra small homemade imitations of shrimp, both sinking and floating versions, but casting all of these has been a problem. No doubt, a fly casting outfit with lures such as these or small streamers, would be the answer; that is, if on a given night the fish can be fooled at all.

In closing: to those anglers who practice restraint by keeping only those fish which are put to good use, and gently releasing the small ones—may you catch loads of fish throughout this, and every year.

BLOWFISH & PUFFERS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

THE BLOWFISH, OR NORTHERN PUFFER, MAKES A SPRING SPAWNING RUN AND A MIGRATORY EXIT IN THE FALL AFTER A SUMMER SPENT IN STEALING BAIT AND CHOMPING LEADERS. ONCE CONSIDERED A TRASH FISH IN THE NORTHEAST, ITS TAIL MEAT WAS FOUND TO BE DELICIOUS AND IT IS NOW POPULAR IN THE MARKET AS "*SEA SQUAB.*"

ITS TEETH ARE FUSED TO FORM A BEAK TO CRUSH BARNACLES, SEA SNAILS AND WORMS.

THEY WILL GANG UP AND DISMEMBER A CRAB!

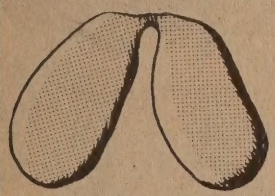
ALL PUFFERS HAVE THE OUTSTANDING ABILITY TO INFLATE THEMSELVES TO TWICE THEIR SIZE BY GULPING WATER OR AIR WHEN INSULTED OR GOING INTO COMBAT.

UNABLE TO SWALLOW A SMALL TREBLE HOOK, THEY ARE EASILY CAUGHT AND UNHOOKED.

THE SKIN IS TOUGH WITH SMALL ERECTABLE SPINES WHICH TAKES THE PLACE OF SCALES.

A LONG SHANK FLOUNDER HOOK LASTS LONGER WHEN CATCHING THESE FISH WHICH BITE ON ALL BAIT.

TO CLEAN, CUT BEHIND HEAD AND DOWN THROUGH THE BACKBONE AND SIMPLY PULL THE MEATY TAIL SECTION OUT OF THE SKIN. FOR MORE THAN TWO- *WEAR GLOVES!*



THE ROE IS CHUNKY AND DELICIOUS. SHOULD BE PARBOILED FIRST. AFTER EATING IT FOR 35 YEARS I DECLARE IT NON-TOXIC!

ALL OTHER PUFFERS CAN BE POISONOUS! SUCH AS THE SOUTHERN U.S. BLOWFISH AND VARIOUS SPECIES FOUND WORLD WIDE. IT'S NOT THE MEAT, BUT INTERNAL ORGANS, THAT CONTAIN *TETRAODONTOXIN*, A POWERFUL DEADLY NERVE POISON.

FUGU, THE EXTREMELY POISONOUS JAPANESE PUFFER, IS CONSIDERED ONE OF THEIR FINEST SEAFOOD DELICACIES.

FUGU COOKS ARE LICENSED AND IN BIG TROUBLE WHEN DINERS DIE!

AN INDIAN OCEAN PUFFER SPECIMEN.

"THESE YE SHALL EAT OF ALL THAT ARE IN THE WATERS: ALL THAT HAVE FINS AND SCALES SHALL YE EAT; AND WHATSOEVER HATH NOT FINS AND SCALES YE MAY NOT EAT; IT IS UNCLEAN TO YOU."
--- DEUTERONOMY 14: 9-10

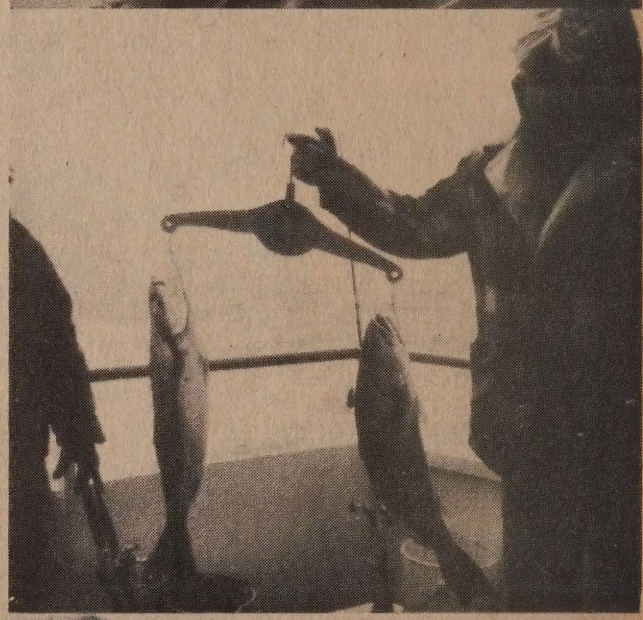
THE ABOVE MOSAIC SANITARY CODE OF THE ANCIENT ISRAELITES IS THOUGHT TO BE A BIBLICAL PROHIBITION PERTAINING TO PUFFERS AND THEIR RELATIVES.

INSHORE FISHING

with Scott J. Simons

NIGHT WEAKFISHING IN PECONIC BAY

"WE HAVE ALWAYS known that weakfishing at night in Peconic Bay is consistently better than daytime fishing ... so why not give the open boat angler an opportunity to get in on some of this great weakfishing?" So said Artie Lach, owner of the open boat **Wilheric II** sailing out of Greenport, when he invited me out for a night weakfishing expedition to sample the action first-hand. Having made several daytime trips myself in the Peconics with the Fisherman's Grady-White Center Console and sampled the lean pickings, I must say I was impressed. With about forty anglers aboard, including members of the North Shore Anglers and the Home Town Fishing Club, over 100 weakfish were brought over the rails: but even this impressive number gives a false image of the action, because for every fish landed an average of two or three more were dropped. These night time weakfish can be quite cute, never pouncing on the artificial,. but rather just kind of mouthing the offering. Several times I almost felt like "dropping back," as if I were fishing for fluke.

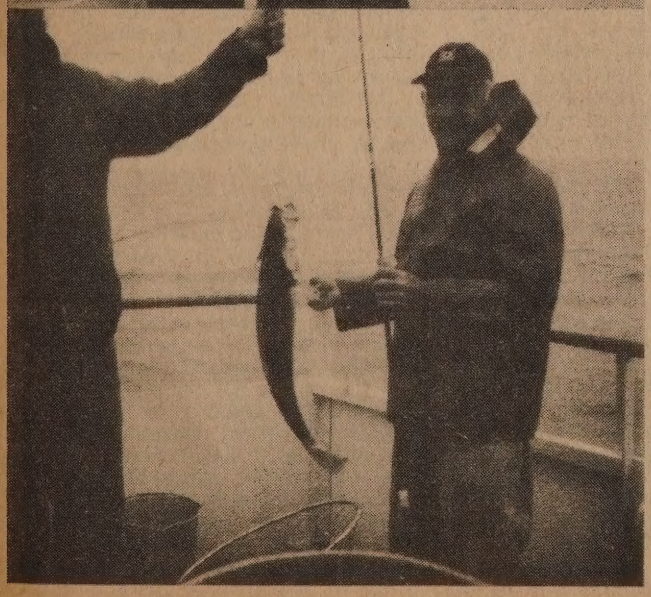


While in the wheelhouse with the night run skipper, Captain Richard Jensen, I could see on the boat's Sitex paper recorder, that the waters of Peconic Bay were just teeming with life. The captain said we were going to be fishing the Middle Grounds, which is the area west of Jessups Neck, known for its great porgy fishing as well as the great weakfishing. After a short ride, Richie found a nice "piece" of bottom with good fish markings on the recorder, and the Wilheric II was anchored up over the spot in short order. Fishing was slow as dusk settled in, but as soon as it was dark the fishing became a steady pick. A few porgies were taken, and several nice bass-size bunker were snagged, along with an occasional weak.

Personally, I had a lot of trouble with my inexperience with this type of fishing, and wound up with a less-than-average two weakfish. But I only had myself to blame, as I am known to be a little thick-headed at times, and insisted on trying to apply daytime fishing methods and artificials at night. I ran through a full repertoire of lures—Tri-Fin Whiptails, Chummin Squid, red Pussycat Lures, Tri-Fin Jiggin' Shrimp and artificial plastic shrimp in all colors of the rainbow and then some: pink, white, amber, green, yellow, blue, combined with various colored heads. By 10:30 p.m., I was not only fishless but also hit-less, while the anglers around me were slowly picking away at the fish. Sensing humiliation, I was about to go in the cabin to find a place to stash my Fisherman jacket in shame, when the mate came over to give me a little mercy.

"Get rid of that daytime junk—tie this on." He handed me a leadhead with a white Mister Twister Tail and a strip of squid on it, which I promptly tied on. After a few fishless casts, I was again contemplating an exile in San Clemente, when the mate paid me a second visit of mercy. "No, no, cast it like this...see the slack? Leave it out so the lure sinks. Then slowly, **SLOWLY** reel in with a slight sweep like this, and..." socko, the mate was into a fish! I had made 4,026 consecutive casts without a tap, and he hooks up with my rod on the first cast. I felt like killing him—didn't he know who I was? Obviously, the **fish** didn't.

The mate handed me back my rod with the struggling weakfish, which I promptly dropped. But I quickly picked up the knack of working the Mister Twister Tail, and had a system down pat: hook a fish, drop 'em; hook a fish, drop 'em, etc. When I got tired of this method, I tried a new variation. Instead of just dropping them—which became boring and no longer a challenge—I let the fish run under the boat so that they could fray the line on the hull. But this also became too effective a method for losing fish, and boredom set in once again; so I decided to try something **really** innovative—I **landed** two! But this wore me out, so I finished up the last two



hours of the trip not catching anything.

(Note to Brad and Ed, two L.I.F. subscribers fishing on the rail next to me all night: You wanted to know how I was going to write up my below-average catch. Now you know...just use above-average excuses.)

The secret to this night weakfishing in Peconic Bay is twofold. First, and most important, are the pains that have gone into the boat to set it up for night fishing. Wired up all around the boat are high-intensity spotlights that are trained on the water all around the boat. The light attracts all kinds of bait fish: sand eels, grass shrimp, squid, bunker, etc. If you kept a careful eye on the water, you could spot a squid jet-propelling himself through the water every now and then. The bait fish that are attracted around the boat by the lights, in turn, attract the weakfish. Chum is also employed as an added insurance for attracting weakfish. The wings, heads and innards of the squid cleaned for strip baits are chopped up into fine pieces and fed into the water. A weighted chumpot filled with cracked mussels is also lowered to the bottom, which seems to attract weakfish for one reason or another. In any case, the system works, and the weigh-in for the pool on the way back to the slip at Greenport took quite a while to decide. About twenty of the fish were in the nine-pound-plus class and they all looked like they were out of the same mold. The running was finally down to two fish, and after much discussion among mates, anglers and interested parties, the Wilheric's owner, Artie Lach called it a draw and Lorraine Swiatochn of Greenport and Louis Cisario of Hewlett split the combined first and second prize money.

The best of the nighttime weakfishing in the Peconics is still in front of us. The fishing has steadily been improving nightly and should be at a peak for this holiday weekend, with another two weeks or so of good fishing to follow. The Wilheric II sails every evening from Mitchell's Dock in Greenport at 7 PM, which gives anglers from the west end of the Island plenty of traveling time to make the boat after work. The trips are made every night except for Sunday, and the boat also makes its regular daytime trips for weakfish and porgies at 8AM. The Captain can be reached at 516-477-2337 for further information. Large or small group charters for clubs and organizations can be arranged for day or night on the Pooka V by contacting Capt. Dave Green, 516-473-1475. The only other open boat sailing for weaks at night in the Peconics is Captain George Porter's "Brand X," which sails at 7PM on Friday and Saturday nights, as well as 8AM daily from Claudio's Dock in Greenport. The Captain can be reached at 516-477-0008, at the A. P. White Bait Shop.

So if you are looking for something to do this Memorial Day Weekend, try open boat fishing for weakfish at night in Peconic Bay—it's a new experience that won't be quickly forgotten!

STRIPED BASS FISHING

PART ONE: *Drifting & Trolling Worms*

by Capt. Ron Onorato

In the not too distant past, the customary procedure to kick off the striper season was to head to Little Neck Bay up on the North Shore of Long Island, or some of the quieter South Shore bays, with a flat of sandworms and drift or troll them. More often than not, when the weather conditions were right, a good catch of small stripers was usually made.

Today, however, the story is not quite the same. While drifting or trolling sandworms is still a deadly tactic for bass of all sizes, the quantity of fish available has drastically declined, and few fishermen bother with this method. Whereas a couple of years ago you could go out almost anyplace and take some school fish, today you're hard pressed to manage a single fish in many prime locations. The fish are just not here in the numbers they used to be.

Another significant factor in the almost non-existence of worm fishing, is the price of the worms themselves. The cost for sandworms and bloodworms as well has soared out of sight. You can't expect someone to spend $10 on bait with little hope of catching any fish. Many years ago, it was possible to sneak out on a low tide to many of the North Shore mud flats and dig up a mess of worms. Today this has been drasticaly reduced also; access to many of the flats have been cut off, and on many of the other places, there are few worms left to bother with.

Despite all these shortcomings, there are still a few fishermen who go forth armed with worms every spring and do manage to take a few fish. If there is another resurgence in the population levels of small bass, worm fishing will probably once again move into the limelight as a regularly practiced method of bass fishing.

The bass that most worm fishermen deal with are the winter-over fish from the season past, power plant bass, or early migrating fish. While most of the resident fish on Long Island choose to leave the bays and Sound, and migrate back to the Hudson River or Chesapeake Bay area, there are a number that decide to spend the winter here. This is true on both the North and South Shores of Long Island. The fish remain in the marshes and creeks in a semi-dormant state, until the warmth of spring has removed the chill from the water. The fish begin to move about again and feed selectively on what little forage there is at this time of the year. There is relatively little in the way of bait fish supply on Long Island in April, and the fish will usually grub along the bottom for worms, clams, and other bottom organisms.

Areas that are in the vicinity of power plants that have a warm water discharge are also the recipients of some early season fish. Many of these fish will spend the winter in the warm water flow and get trapped there, as the surrounding water temperature is too cold for them. The only time they are able to leave the warm water is when the surrounding water gets a little warmer.

If the springtime weather is milder than normal, some of the bass that have been wintering in the lower reaches of the Hudson River will get the urge to move on a little earlier than usual, and will spread into the areas close to the mouth of the River, such as Little Neck Bay, Hempstead Harbor, and Manhasset Bay. The areas surrounding New York Harbor such as the Verrazano area and Rockaway Beaches, will also get a sprinkling of fish. Further to the East, some bays that have freshwater rivers and springs emptying into them seem to attract winter-over fish, also hold fish. Oyster Bay Harbor has several freshwater streams emptying into its back reaches, and at one tme, sustained a minor run of Alewives (herring). This, in turn, attracted the bass and provided a source of forage. The Nissequogue River is also similar in nature.

Once the springtime run really gets going with larger bodies of fish moving along the beaches as the water warms, the fish move from the bottom as a feeding area, and start to feed on the rapidly arriving supply of bait fish. It should be noted, however, that the fish will hit worms all summer long, particularly at night, as long as other bottom species such as eels, flounders, bergalls, etc., aren't too numerous.

The bait most often used is the sandworm, with the bloodworm coming in a distant second. The sandworm is usually used because it is a little easier to get than bloodworms, and grows larger and handles a little better in storage. The bloodworms today sold in the bait shops are really pathetic specimens. It would take three or four worms placed on a hook to make one respectable piece of bait attractive to a bass. Its main redeeming value is the fact that it is very durable on the hook, and seldoms snaps off. Sandworms, on the other hand, are really quite fragile, and are easily broken off into pieces when pierced by the barb of the hook. When the spring run was on, many tackle shops sorted their sandsworms into two categories: those to be used for flounder bait, and those to be sold as bass worms. The bass worms were those long, flowing kind that looked more like an eel than like a worm. A couple of dozen of them was all that was needed.

To get good size sandworms today is a little difficult, but you can manage some with a little effort. Try to maintain friendly relations with a tackle dealer, and tell him you're willing to pay him extra money if he could give you some bigger worms for bass fishing. More often than not, he will go through the flat and select some of the larger worms. Probably the best thing to do is go down to a bait wholesaler and buy a whole flat of worms. This will give you enough bait to last for several trips, and you can keep them alive for a week or so. The way to store them is by keeping them in the container they come in, with the sea weed. Cull out the dead and injured worms, and store in your refrigerator, but remember not to let the temperature inside fall to below 40 degrees or you'll have a box of spaghetti come morning.

Up on the North Shore, trolling worms is the most effective way of presenting the bait to the fish. There is little tidal movement, and the water for the most part is pretty shallow. This is where the rowboater or tin boat man has the advantage over the big boat owner. Many times I would be forced to leave my big rig home and rent a rowboat from Bill's up on the West side of Hempstead Harbor just so we could troll sandworms in the shallow water. You'll never be able to idle the motor on a big rig slow enough for the right speed, and the noise of the big rig would be spooking any fish in the three and four foot depths that are favored to fish in.

If you think you troll slow for fluke, then you troll slower for bass. In fact, many times the motor isn't even in gear. What you want to do is to keep the worm moving at different levels of water without staying in the same spot. For example, you'll have maybe a hundred or so feet of line out and you'll begin to troll for a few seconds, very slowly in forward gear. Now, you put the motor into neutral, and allow the worm to sink down a few feet. After a couple of seconds, put the gear into forward, and the worm will rise up again. Believe me, this is a deadly, deadly method, and if there are any bass around, they will surely take a look at the worm. It should be added that a windless evening is a must for good results. If the wind is too

strong, you will be trying to guide the boat from being blown around, and the action of the worm will suffer. For some reason, bass are more active up on the North Shore around evening than around dawn. Perhaps the water is sufficiently warmed by a bright sunny day, and this stimulates the bass into feeding more actively. Calm, windless nights are also more productive than daytime, as long as the water hasn't been roiled by too much wind.

The trolling rig is simplicity itself. A 2/0 Claw type fine wire hook used in tandem with another hook of the same size is often used, or you can stay with just a single hook. With the tandem rig, the head of the worm is impaled through the first hook, with the second hook coming out around the middle of the worm. With the single hook, the worm is threaded up over the eye of the hook so that the barb comes out around the middle. In either event, there should be an inch or so of the worm flowing from the hook. If the worms are on the small side, you can put two on the hook.

For reasons of line control, many trollers stay with very light conventional outfits and mono line testing between 15 and 20 pounds. You can take in and feed line out much more easily with a light conventional reel than with spinning tackle. The worm is connected right to the terminal end of the mono line without any swivels or weights. Some rigs advertised in tackle shops, feature spinners, and they do work, especially in deeper water. If you're going to be fishing tight to the beach, the weight of the spinners will often keep the bait deeper than you want.

When the hit comes, you'll know it; the bass just opens his mouth and swallows. No need to give him line, just engage the reel and set the hook. The fish may be sluggish feeding at this time of the year, but he gives a nice fight in such shallow water.

Some good spots to try include the flats of Little Neck Bay, especially the Eastern side, and the rocky shore along the mouths of Hempstead and Manhasset Bays. Oyster Bay Harbor is also a very productive area. As a rule, try to hit these areas around high tide and toward the end of the day. Sunny, mild days with little wind will generally provide good action for that evening. If you get a full moon around the end of April or early May, try to fish at night. Light, southerly winds are the best to fish on, with a wind from any northerly quarter to be avoided.

Just remember, don't go roaring into the area with the motor full throttle, approach the area as silently as possible. If possible, try to get a silent electric motor, or if you really want silence, go right to oar power.

Down along the South Shore bays and creeks where the water is deeper and the currents a little faster, drifting worms is practiced in addition to the trolling. The water can vary from 12 to 16 feet in depth, with some occasional holes going a little deeper. I never gave much thought to the South Shore fish until a few years ago. For a while, the number of flounder fishermen had complained about their flounder hook being straightened out by a fish, most though of eels, until a couple of stray bass were landed. It seems these fish were feeding smack on the bottom eating worms and such. With a little experimentation, we came up with a very simple rig that worked fairly well.

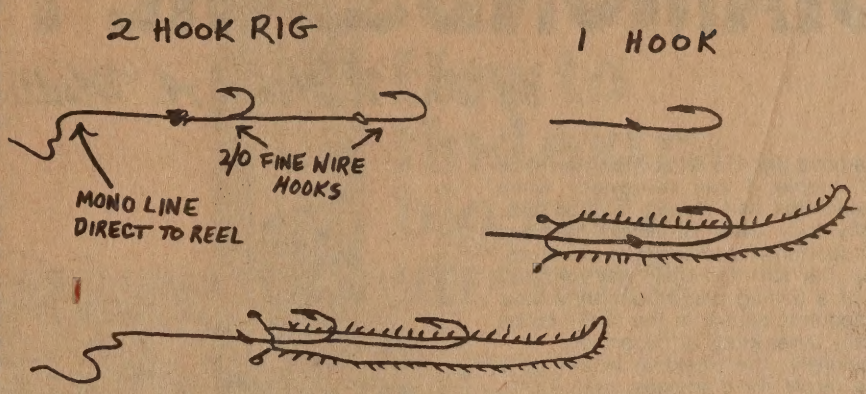
Since the fish seemed to be feeding right on or near the bottom, the logical place to present the bait was there. Taking a cue from the fluke fishermen, a rig was devised along those lines. A 2/0 Eagle Claw hook was rigged on an 18 inch length of stiff 40 pound leader material. With the aid of the three-way swivel, it was connected to the mono line. A sinker was attached to the other end of the swivel at varying lengths, anywhere from one to three feet off the bottom. The same outfits used for trolling or light chumming can be used here without any problems.

Once you're in an area you want to fish, pull the boat well up-tide and send the rig to the bottom. The worm baited hook will be bouncing along the bottom until something grabs it. You can cover wide areas like this without spending too much time in one region. In effect, it's almost like drifting for fluke; the basics are pretty much the same.

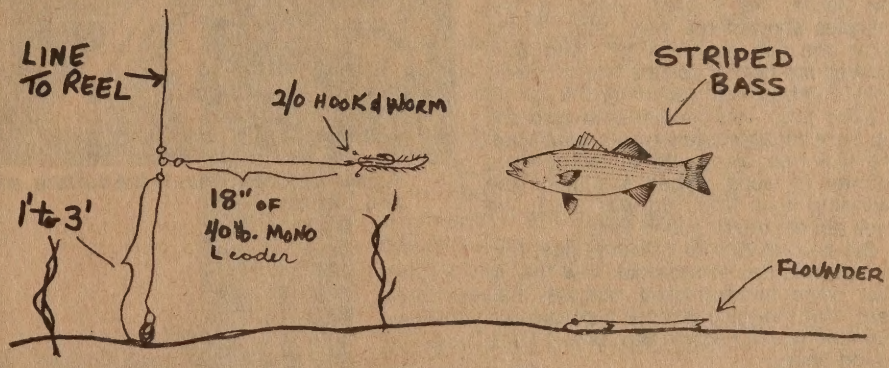
Some favored areas include the Reynold's Channel area around the Atlantic Beach Bridge. The docks and piers that line the Channel on the south side are always worth a shot from late April to early May. Further east, the deep cuts around the Short Beach Coast Guard Station and the entrance to Zach's Bay have also produced in the past. Look for fish around the end of April, and it's a good bet you'll see some life by the first week of May.

Worm fishing is a pleasant change from the routine of flounder fishing and gives the bass fisherman a shot at some fish. If the fish return to their periods of abundance, we will once again be treated to some early season bass, and this will be a most welcome improvement.

TROLLING RIG



DRIFTING RIG



DIAMONDS ARE FOREVER

by Dr. William A. Muller

Diamond **jigs** are what the title refers to of course. I can remember when diamond jigs had a very limited use. Usually they were employed by deep water sportsmen seeking bass and blues. Today they still find their way into that kind of a fishing parlor, but they have also begun to appear in the tackle boxes of many other kinds of fishermen.

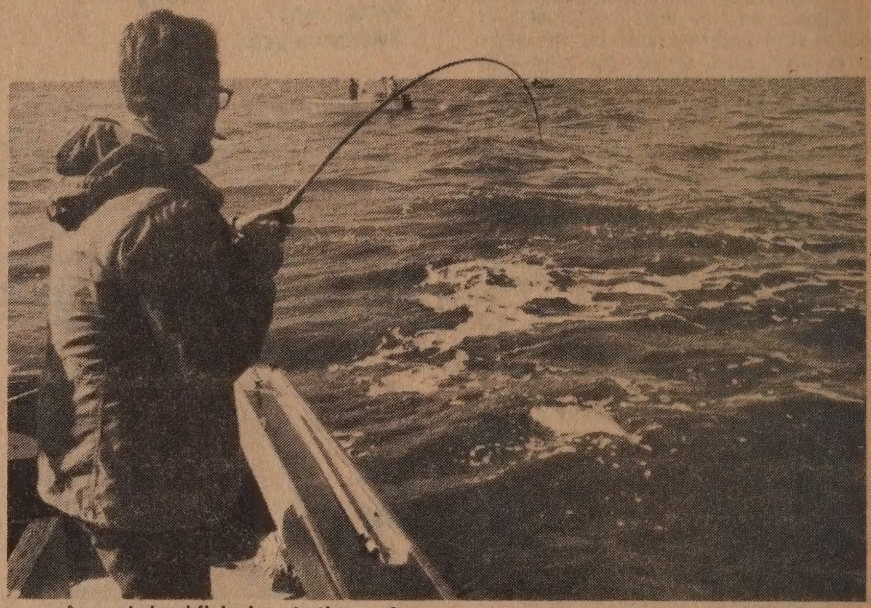
Obviously, the weakfish would be a prime target for diamonds, and AVA's new gold #27 jig is perfect for them. It is certainly helpful that a company has had the insight to make jigs with single, free swinging hooks; it eliminates many hours of hook changing. Free swinging hooks offer little or no leverage to the fish. When the fish twist, so does the hook. I've used diamond jigs that were fitted with treble hooks and I remember how many fish would break off during the battle. As I grew older, a few sharpies showed me why treble hooks allow the fish to break off, and they showed me how to correct the problem. They'd imbed the treble hook of a jig into a wood post, and then they'd turn the jig. Sure enough, a few twists would pull the hook free, along with a healthy sized splinter of wood. When a single, free swinging hook fitted jig was used, the hook almost never pulled free.

Big porgies fall for diamond jigs, too. In fact, one day at Montauk saw the jig take more hump-backed porgies than bass. But I've also taken big porgies on diamond jigs in Peconic Bay, and in Long Island Sound.

Sea bass are a natural for diamond jigs. Even when these spunky little fish are on the small side, they still take the jigs with their cavernous mouths. Since they chase after almost any kind of bait from crabs, lobsters, and shrimp, to small fish and live squid, they aren't opposed to snapping at a bright diamond jig. Sea bass usually spread out pretty well over their summer range, and it isn't unusual to take them sporadically mixed with bass and blues during a sustained drift. Although bait is usually more productive for sea bass, there have been a few days when the jigs out-produced the baited hook.

Big fluke seem to have a preference for diamond jigs when they are feeding on big sand eels and squid. On a day when fluke fishing at Montauk could only have been described as a pick, we decided to bounce diamond jigs in the hope of picking up a bass or two. Well, the jig didn't bounce twice before something grabbed it and tugged for the bottom. The result was an eight pound doormat!

Last year, pollack responded well to diamond jigs, especially if a short white tube was added about 18 inches above the jig. Pollack chase bait at all levels in the water column and, therefore, the prescribed method for taking them on the Block Island grounds is squidding. When squidding, the jig is allowed to sink towards the bottom. When it touches, the angler begins a steady and rapid retrieve all the way to the surface.



A good sized fish rises to the surface, and then "thinks" better of the idea and tries to sound.

Captain Demaio puts the gaff to a diamond jig-fooled bass.

Mackerel frequently horn in on the deep water jigging action. What is often surprising is that this small member of the tuna family charges after, and gets hooked on a diamond jig that's almost half its own size. Many fishermen add several small tubes ahead of the metal

jig and are able to take two, three, or more mackerel at a time.

Cod take a diamond jig that's bounced along the bottom, too. They won't respond in the late fall, winter, or early spring; they are simply too sluggish. But when the waters warm, they'll latch onto the silvery lures quite readily. Cod are known to prefer "dead" baits when the water is cold and even the gentle swaying of a baited hook is often enough to make them shy off.

What's most remarkable to me is that all these species can be taken with diamond jigs in one place—Montauk. The same piece of bottom—let's say Great Eastern—will produce all of these species at one time or another, and in October, it's possible to take a mixed bag that will be represented by most, if not all of these fish!

Montauk is diamond jiggers' heaven to my way of thinking, and there are some real sharpies out there. These guys can make a diamond jig talk to the fish. They'll bounce bottom, or squid, and even troll a diamond jig very, very slowly, and all these techniques take fish. But, within the last ten years or so, a new approach has found its way onto the Montauk grounds and it is a skillful approach, but one which is very satisfying.

Let me explain! The bottom at Montauk is like a giant roller-coaster. It may slope sharply upwards, and then within the space of a few hundred feet, drop off from twenty-five feet to almost one hundred feet. This pattern repeats itself over and over again, from Shagwong to Cartright! Now, as the tides rushes back and forth through this area, it must move past the mountains that stand up to retard the progress of the tide: but the tide cannot be denied. As the saying goes: "Time and tide wait for no man!" Therefore, in order for the great volume of tidal surge to get from point A to point B, it must compensate for the changes in depth by accelerating over the ridges and slowing down above the valleys. This way, the same volume of sea water moves through a given area no matter how deep or shallow it is. The results of these speed changes are called rips.

Migrating schools of bait become trapped in the tidal surges where they become easy victims for the predators. Actually, the predators will wait at the edge of the turbulence for the tide to bring them their dinner. The diamond jig maven has discovered that this is the best place to take the predators.

One such man is John Demaio. Many skills must be used simultaneously in order to be successful. The boat, for example, must be held in place, stemming the tide, just up-tide of the heavy turbulence. It's no easy task to keep a check on the speed and the angle of the boat while fishing with the jigs. Second, the captain has to keep an eagle eye on the surrounding boat traffic, because even a small mistake in the crowded rip could mean disaster. Third, there is the angling technique itself. The diamond jig must be lowered to the

(Continued on page 53.)

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MAINLAND WEAKFISH

by Capt. Fred Golofaro

If you live on Long Island's South Shore, chances are there exists some pretty good weakfishing a lot closer to home than you think. Nearly every creek and canal that empties into the Bay has a substantial population of weakfish. Some areas are naturally more productive than others. A little bit of searching and experimentation will help you find the hotspots in your vicinity.

I have taken fish in a number of places within a long stretch of bay front between Sayville and Massapequa. The best part about this fishing is that there is no need to travel any distance at all. The only reason I have covered such a large area is simply because each place I fished was convenient to me at that particular time. You're far better off staying near home and learning your own area well.

Creeks or canals that are still blessed with wetlands bordering them, generally offer better action than more developed areas. And, while the mouths of these waterways are often the most productive spots, some of the back creeks have provided pleasant surprises during the course of a season.

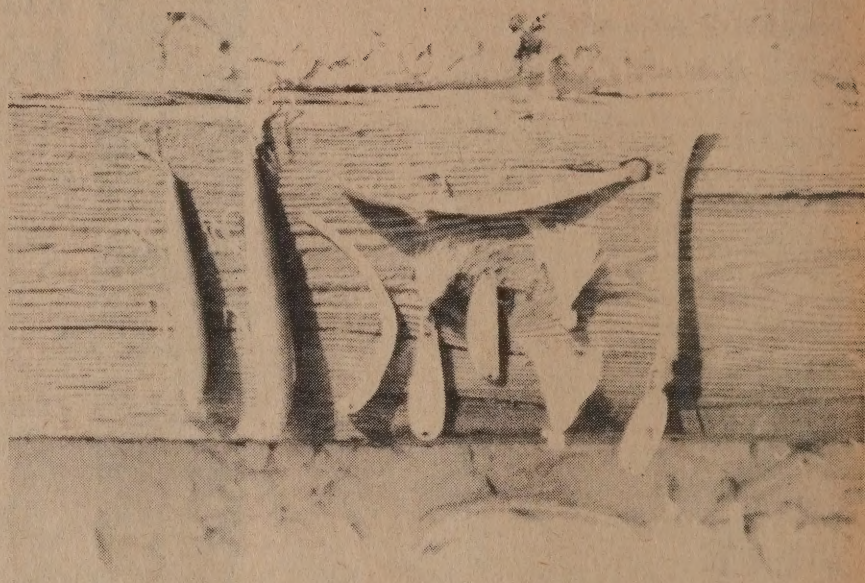
Besides being the most convenient time to fish for many people, evenings are also the most rewarding. From about 6 PM until whenever you choose to knock off, tides seem to have less influence in these areas, but there are always exceptions. Be observant and keep a log, if you feel it is necessary. When you stay after dark during the summer months, a can of insect repellant might help you save a pint or two of blood if the mosquitoes find you as appealing as they do me.

This fishing usually becomes worthwhile early in May, and remains productive through September.

One aspect of this type of fishing that I find especially appealing is that you can go out unburdened by a lot of equipment. A light spinning rod with a Penn 720, 722, or similar size reel loaded with six pound test, is well suited to this fishing. A pair of hip boots is essential if you choose to fish the often productive marsh areas, and a pocket size plastic case holding a small selection of lures, rounds out your equipment. I often release these fish, but if you plan on keeping some for the table, a stringer and landing net should be toted along. In some spots, it's easy enough to just beach a tired fish, in which case you can leave your net at home.

As for lure selection, I've had a lot of success with a 1/8 ounce leadheaded feather jig, called a Doodle Bug, put out by Dragon Fly. Carry several white, and one or two yellow along with you. You should also keep a couple of small tins handy. The Hopkins Shorty, 3/4 ounce size and the 1/2 ounce Sidewinder, have both taken their share of fish.

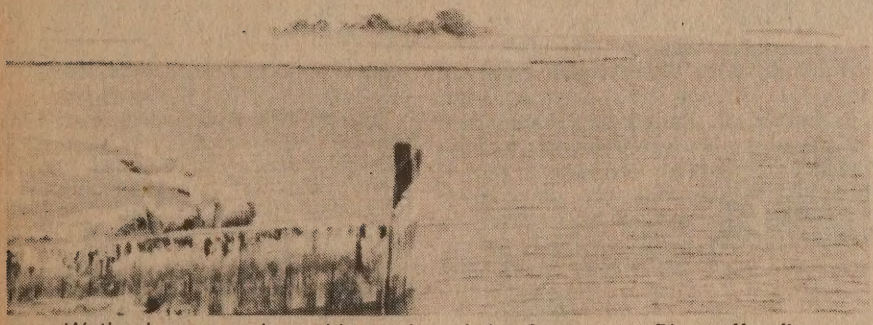
The jigs and tins, while deadly early in the evening, lose their effectiveness as darkness descends. After dark, the most consistent producer has been a slowly worked 5-1/2" floating Rebel. It has also accounted for the largest fish we've taken from these waters. Include a couple in your box, along with a 3-1½" version for those still and quiet nights. A one ounce Tri-Fin Whiptail in white and a small Alou Eel, completes your supply of lures. Make up a few 15 or 20 pound test mono leaders in two foot lengths, and you're all set.



All of the above lures have their place in mainland weakfishing.

These small feather jigs are deadly when worked properly.

A lone angler works the mouth of a productive South Shore canal.



Wetland areas such as this portion of the Connetquot River offer fine weakfishing.

Tie all of the above lures direct to leader, except for the Alou Eel and Whiptail, which need snaps wide enough to permit them to swim freely. Herter's duo-lock snaps are well suited to the job. Work all of the lines slowly and add a rhythmic jig to the leadheads every couple of turns of the reel handle.

Most of the weaks you land will be in the three to five pound class, but encounters with outsize yellowfins are inevitable. Truly large tiderunners spend their nights warily prowling these bait-laden waters. While we've landed a number of fish in the nine pound range, docks and pilings always seem to be nearby when you hang a really big fish.

One of the biggest weakfish I know of that has come from these mainland waters, was a 12-1/4 pounder, landed by Pop Smith off a dock in an East Islip creek, a few years back. Some of the fish I've seen cruising under the lights in this same creek were of incredible size. It is some kind of a sight, to watch these submarines stalk your slow wobbling Rebel in full view, and then in a flash, take the plug and be off like an express train, only to cut you off on the piling of their choice. Let's just say that there's no limit to the size of the weaks you may encounter.

Big fish fall prey to snappers and bunkers live lined in these same waters, but that can be the subject of an article in itself.

While two of us have taken as many as 20 fish in a couple of hours time, most evenings you can leave content if you've landed just a few of these yellow-finned beauties.

This backyard fishing is an easy, relaxing way to do battle with a fine sport fish and, at the same time, unwind from a day's work over a placid Long Island sunset.

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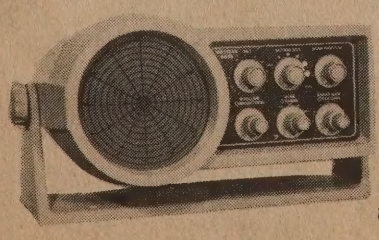

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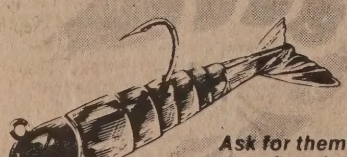

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SOUTH SHORE Fishing Report

MONTAUK

Capt. Ron Grandinetti, of the **Julie III**, and his charters report that over the weekend of the 14th and 15th, they brought in 1800 lbs. of cod and pollock. This past weekend, a catch off Block Island cod and pollock totalled 1250 lbs. for members of the Skunked Again Anglers Fishing Club, Brooklyn. Jigs and tubes did the trick.

Last Thursday, Bill Stanley, manager of the Herman's Store in Roosevelt Field; Alan Goldberg of the Huntington Store; John Edwards, and Rich Kessinger, Jr., whose father pilots the Starstream of Freeport, fished off Gardiner's Island. Brought in were 36 flounder, all over two pounds, with the one caught by John tipping the scales at 4-1/2 pounds. The flounder were caught in Tobacco Lot Bay in 13 feet of water, using mussels and chum for bait.

All signs pointed to the start of the spring bass run at Montauk. On Saturday Captain George McTurck of the charterboat **Sportfisher** scored with the first striped bass of the year, and repeated with three more bass on Sunday and one lone bluefish. John DeMaio of the charterboat **Vivienne** took 2 bass in Sunday morning's fog, and we heard that another charterboat took 8 bass on Sunday afternoon, so it really looks good for striped bass fishing to take off this week. Pollack fishing remains great off Block Island and

Capt. John DeMaio and friend Joe with 2 of the first bass to be taken at Montauk this year.

Bill Schlitter of Plainview is shown here with a cod of 52 ¼ pounds plus 6 other fish taken. Dick Marra of Ridgefield, Conn. with a 24 lb. bass plus 18 other fish he took aboard the Peconic Queen III.

should hold up as long as the bait stays in the area. This week we also had the first reports of fluke being taken in the North Rips, and seabass are off to a fair start at Cartwright. All in all it looks like Montauk is in for one of those banner years that made it known world wide as the Fishing Capital of the World.

Captain Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Star** said that the cod and pollack action is holding up very good south of Block Island and he had more cod than pollack on Sunday. The cod are now in the 12-14 lb. range while the pollack are still those still big monsters up to 35 pounds. Diamond jigs are still producing best, but bait is catching more fish every day. Paul said that starting this Saturday, Memorial Day weekend, the **Viking Starlite** will start its half-day fluke fishing once again. The boat leaves the dock at 8 A.M. and 1 P.M. for fluke in the North Rips. Bait and Tackle is supplied. The Captain also said that the next Nantucket Wreck Trip will leave on June 5th at 9 P.M. Call 516-668-5924 for further details.

Captain Warren Hader of the charter boat **Devilfish** takes the honors for taking the first blue sharks of the 1977 season. Twelve year old Billy Behrndt of N.J. took a 110 lb. blue and Mike Woytowich of N.J. took the 78 pounder, which was the first one caught. The sharks were taken southeast of the Pt. in 36 fathoms of water, chumming with bunker and using whole bunker for bait. The Capt also said that the pollack fishing was still very good on Saturday with 30 pollack up to 30 pounds and 12 cod. They also had a barrel full of whiting.

Captain John DeMaio of the charterboat **Vivienne** almost took the honors for the first bass of the season. On Sunday morning John and friend Joe and LIF staff member Scott Simons worked the Elbow and took 2 bass before the fog

rolled in and ranges could no longer be worked. They didn't know that bass were taken the previous afternoon. John said that for some reason he is not booked for this Sunday of the Memorial Day Weekend, so give him a call.

Captain Richard Rade of the **Marlin IV** said that fishing south of Block Island is still very good for pollack up to 35 pounds with plenty of cod mixed in. The captain noted that there is still plenty of bait in the water so the fishing may last for a few more weeks. During the week a 26½ lb. pollack was taken on board the **Marlin IV**, which is pending as a new I.G.F.A. World Record.

Captain George McTurck of the charterboat **Sportfisher** took the first bass of the season as noted on Saturday. First the charter fished the sub buoy and took 39 big pollack, 5 cod and a mess of whiting. Sensing that bass might be in the area, the Turck decided to give it a shot on the way back in. Stopping at Great Eastern 3 bass 10 to 22 pounds were quickly bagged on umbrella rigs. On Sunday another party took 20 pollack and 5 codfish and the captain stopped at Great Eastern once again on the way home to catch the end of incoming tide. In short order, 3 bass and one bluefish were bagged. George told us that he heard another charterboat took 8 stripers Sunday afternoon.

Captain Frank of the charterboat **Hurry Up** called during the week to be the first to let us know that the fluke have moved into the North Rips. On Tuesday he stopped there on the way back from the fantastic Block Island pollack fishing and his charter took 6 fluke in 2 short drifts. All the fish were 3 to 4 pounds which is a good sign. Capt. John Sweetman of the charterboat **Ebb Tide** reported taking close to 20 fluke during the week in the North Rips. Capt. Frank said that on Tuesday his charter took over 1000 pounds gutted of pollack and cod up to 30 pounds. Most of the pollack were in the 20 lb. class and about ½ dozen were 29 pounds. Frank noted that giant whiting were also mixed in the catch.

LIF subscriber Wm. Zerillo and friends chartered Captain Paul Sundberg's boat **Montauk** and they had a grat great day. They took 38 pollack up to 27 pounds and 10 cod to 35 pounds all on Ava-67 diamond jigs and tubes in the Out of This World Grounds. William noted that the mate was extremely helpful in helping the charter to get the knack of using the diamond jigs.

After fixing a bent shaft and other minor repairs, the Captain Bud Dorman of the **Viking Skipper II** said that the boat is now back in the water and ready to go for cod and pollack. The hot sea bass fishing is just around the corner and it won't be long now.

Henry Colombi of the **Star Island Yacht Club** called to say that Captain Ronnie Goldberg of the "Bar-Bar-Jack" made another fantastic catch last weekend that is driving the rest of the boats at the club crazy. On Saturday Ronnie loaded up the cockpit of his 41' Hatteras with 75 codfish up to 45 pounds, and about 30 pollack were released. All these

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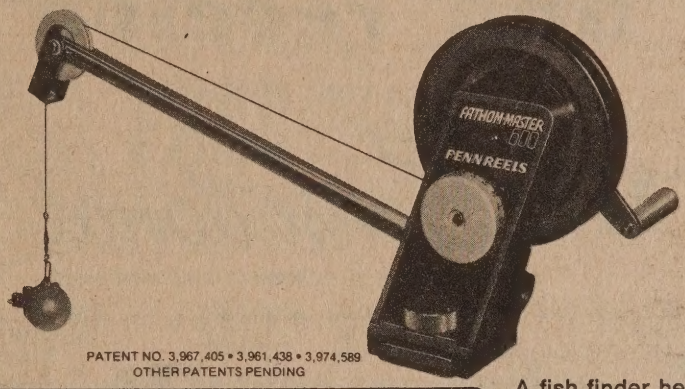

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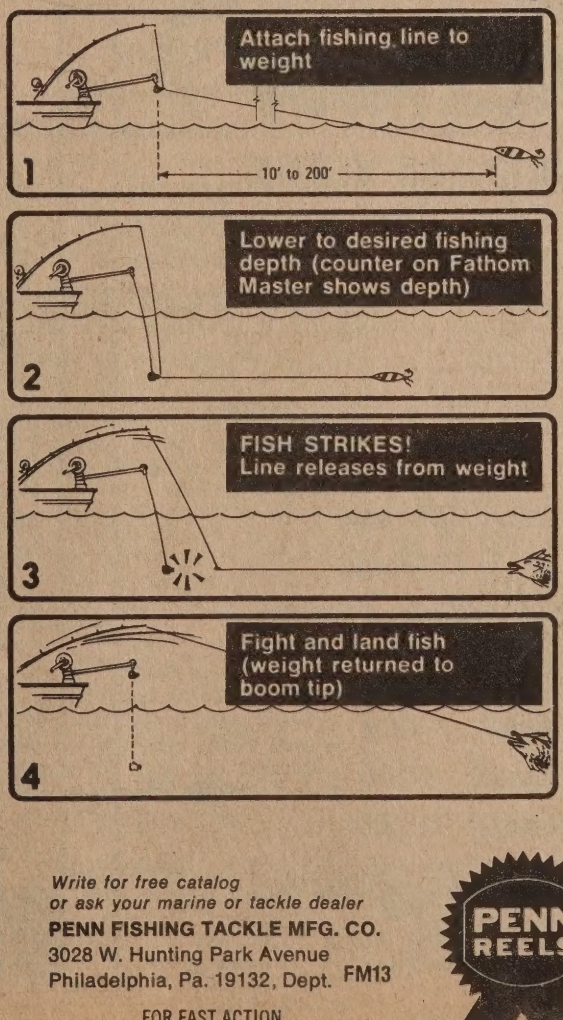
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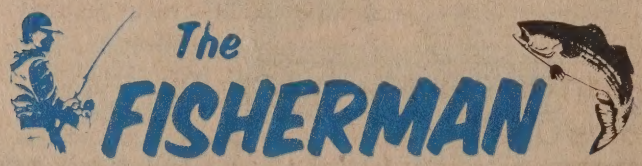

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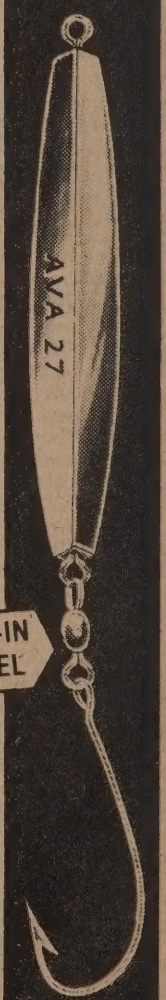

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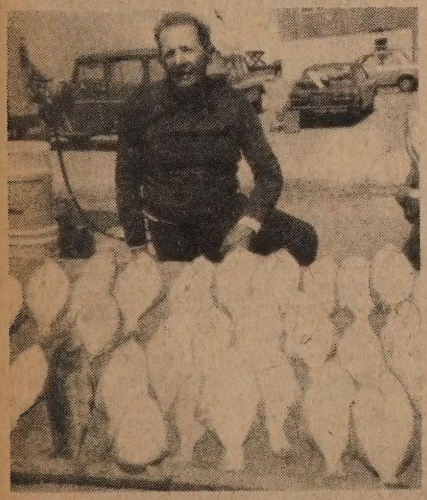
fish were taken by three men using Ava diamond jigs. On Sunday the boat returned to the same area 4 miles south of Shark's Ledge in 80 feet of water and took 35 cod, 12 between 30 and 40 pounds. The captain said that the action is in the early morning hours and is usually over by 10, so he has been leaving the dock at 4 A.M. On Sunday the "Hi-Lee" had Jimmy Flynn's Fishing Club aboard, and they took 85 flounder up to 4½ pounds at Rocky Pt. Rod and Glenn Sklar of the "Margie Luv" had 40 flounder on Friday at Tobbaccolot Bay. Ten of the fish were in the 4 lb. class.

By one means or another, an erroneous fishing report appeared in The Long Island Fisherman for the charterboat **Storm King.** It was reported that the boat did good with cod and pollack on Saturday and Sunday when the boat was in dry dock. The Captain and mate have apologized for the misunderstanding, and we at LIF also would like to apologize for any of our readers who may have been led astray.

Captain Paul Sundberg of the charterboat **Montauk** had a blockbuster week, although ventures were a bit less noteworthy once the weekend came along. Southeast of Block Island, Ava jigs and Sekora tubes were used to bring in no fewer than 30 pollack in the 20 to 30 lb. range. The cod caught weren't dramatic, but there were a few clunkers in the lot.

PROMISED LAND

Art Brand at **Promised Land Fishing Station** reports that founder fishing is doing well with varied catches over the weekend. Catches came in anywhere from 6 to 65 fish. On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday the flounder fishing was so hot off Promised Land fish factory and was good at Gardiner's over the weekend. There are a few blackfish mixed in and a lot of 3 lb. flounder have been caught.



Ed Staub caught these flounders ranging from 1 ½ to 3 pounds and 1 blackfish off the Fish Factory in one of the Promised Land Fishing Station's rental skiffs.

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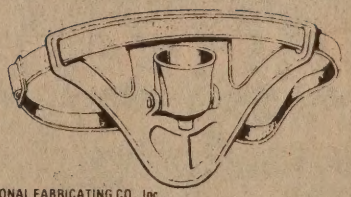
The Long Island FISHERMAN CONTEST

FISHING TRIP

The Long Island Fisherman Litter Box Contest gives our readers a chance of winning a fishing trip for two on the open boat of their choice and a $10 cash prize. All the fisherman has to do is stop in at one of the better bait and tackle centers and pick up an L.I.F. Litter Box for the rear window of your car. Each week the license number of a car spotted with a litter box will be published—if it's yours, call The Fisherman by 5 P.M. that Friday and tell us the make and model of the car and you're a winner! If no call is received, the cash prize will accumulate.



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★ Bonus Prize ★

Contest winners also will receive a NAFABCO GIMBAL ROD BELT, the new lightweight unbreakable plastic gimbal for boat & surf!!!

LAST WEEK'S WINNER:
John Faraone of West Islip is the Litter Box winner for this week. John has been sent a check for $10 and has also chosen a free fishing trip for two aboard the Speedy VI.

THIS WEEK'S WINNING LICENSE PLATE NUMBER IS:
711-AGF

Weekly winners of the L.I.F. Litter Box Contest may chose a trip for two aboard one of the following boats as their prize:

MONTAUK	CAPTREE	SHEEPSHEAD BAY	NORTH SHORE
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17 Ft. '64 MFG w/Evinrude O/B and Trailer $1495
18 Ft. '67 Sea Ray w/135 H.P. Evinrude '74, Very Clean $2590
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NOYAC

Helen at **Noyac Marina** reports fantastic weakfishing now as evidenced by Franko Bazzarelli and Tony Porco of Palasades NY and pal Vince Guilano of Nauset, taking a mess of weakfish with the biggest hitting 11¼ and 11¾ pounds on pink Salty Dogs tipped with squid. No fish were under 4 pounds and there were several 8 pounders mixed in. Best is from buoy 16 drifting to the Ferry Slip. Fluking is very good with 6 and 7 pounders being weighed in on drifted Salty Dogs tipped with squid. Helen says the fishing and the weather are both great this year.

SAG HARBOR

Chris at **Bay View Fishing Station** tells us that Smith Cove, the west end of the Ferry, Cedar Point and Kelly's Point are producing good weakfish catches, fish running 5 to 11 pounds hitting salty dogs tipped with squid with early morning and early eve hours the best. If that's not in the picture, fish are flood tide during the day. Blues at the Ferry—3 taken on bucktails intended for stripers. A few fluke being taken by weakfishermen on dogs. Some nice stripers taken from the west end of the Ferry on white bucktails tipped with pork rind, trolled deep.

SHINNECOCK

Capt. Clark Bellows Sr. said that the **Captain Clark Boats** have been having very, very good porgy fishing since Tuesday. The fish are the biggest kind with some over 3 pounds. Best area has been off the National Golf Links followed by Nassau Pt. and south of Robbins Island over stony bottom. Skimmers and worms are best for the porgies, and most anglers are using a hi-lo rig to take an occasional weakfish. On Sunday about 250 porgies were taken along with 15 weakfish. The Captain noted that the best of the weakfishing is still in front of us.

HAMPTON BAYS

Tony's Fishing Station reports flounders right in front of the station from buoys 17, 18, 20 and 21, with plenty of fish ranging up to 1¼ pounds. Bait is worms and mussel chum. Also, a few big porgies are being taken at buoy 17. Captain Al Zeuke of N.J. had 13 keeper fluke at East Channel taken on spearing on an ebb tide.

Skipper's Fishing Station reports good fluking now, an average of 20 keepers per boat from 2 to 3 pounds. Sand eels, squid and smelts for the hook. Bigger fish want the bigger baits. A fluke with two white sides was brought into Skipper's on Sunday, says owner Mike. On Saturday, Bob Koster of Middle Village and 2 sons had 35 fluke and a few weaks. The weaks took whole sand worms. This was all at Rose's Grove. The best catches are in front of the station from the red channel marker up to the bridge. Captain Joe Ferrara of the charterboat **Avanti** landed 2 big pollack this past week while out mackerel fishing.

John at **Bradley's Fishing Station** reports that fluke are being picked up in front of the station. Flounder can be had from 1½ to 2 pounds in the Basket Area and the Greenlawn. Peconic weaks are spotty to slow with some large fish between 7 and 8 pounds taken.

Corr's Fishing Station tells of weakfish in Peconic Bay from the National Golf Course to Cows Neck remaining good. Best catches, however, are by weekday anglers. Saturday and Sunday saw picky catches, boats averaging 2 to 4 fish. Ray Costello and Jim Mc Donald of So. Ozone park had 10 weakies between them, up to 8½ pounds. The best is a falling tide with Salty Dogs and Mr. Twisters with light colors working best. An increasing number of porgies are now being taken in South Race on clam or worm. Fluking in Shinnecock Bay is improving with the best being the canal up to buoy 31 and East Channel at Shinnecock Inlet. The larger fluke are being taken at the inlet on spearing and sand eels with a squid teaser. Flounders are still there with good catches being had east of Shinnecock Inlet in 8 to 10 feet of water on sand or bloods with mussel chum.

Jim Darby of South Hampton last Thursday night at 10:30 P.M., fishing a

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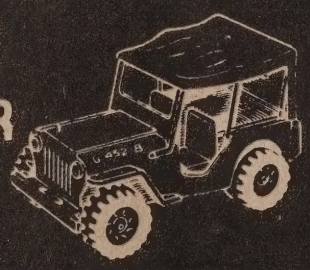

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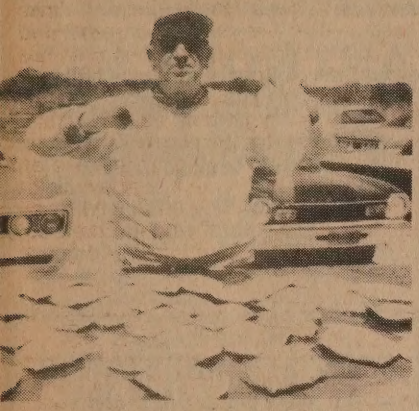

John Bogdan of Middle Village with 40 flounder he caught northeast of buoy 42 close to shore. Photo courtesy of Silly Lily Fishing Station.

big gold Lupo Danny plug took a 51½ lb. bass fishing from his own boat at the Rip at Gardiners Island. The fish was weighed in at Herb McCarthy's Bowen Square Restaurant.

MORICHES BAY

"Fair to Good" is the status of the flounder fishing, according to the **Silly Lilly** of East Moriches. They're being caught to the South side of Buoys 36 and 39, and North of Buoy 42, with red dyed clams and worms being used. Although many are getting smaller, one angler brought one in weighing 2-1¼ pounds. Out in the channel, a couple fluke were brought in with squid and sand eels. They're just starting and are weighing under 4 pounds; sea bass also just starting, are weighing around 1-1-1/4 pounds.

Hi-Way Marina reports that flounder are being taken from buoys 36 to 42 on red dyed clams and worms. Fluke up to 4½ pounds are being taken in the Old Cut on squid and sand eels.

Skidmore's Fishing Station reports that Stan Bigora of E. Moriches took a 6 lb. 14 oz. fluke at buoy 36 on sand eels and squid. Flounder fishing is still very good from buoys 36 to 39 on worms and mussel chum.

MASTIC BEACH

Gary at **Stiriz's Fishing Station** tells us that flounders are good from buoys 25-29 on worm and mussel baits with light chumming. Weakfish are best in the early morning and early eve at buoy 12 and the hole at 17 on Salty Dogs and white or yellow bucktails. Very good fluking from buoys 17 through 20 on spearing, sand eels and squid. All fish are hitting on both tides. A scattering of blowfish and eels at buoys 15 through 21. The first blackfish was taken at the bridge on squid and a couple of harbor blues also hit bottom jigs.

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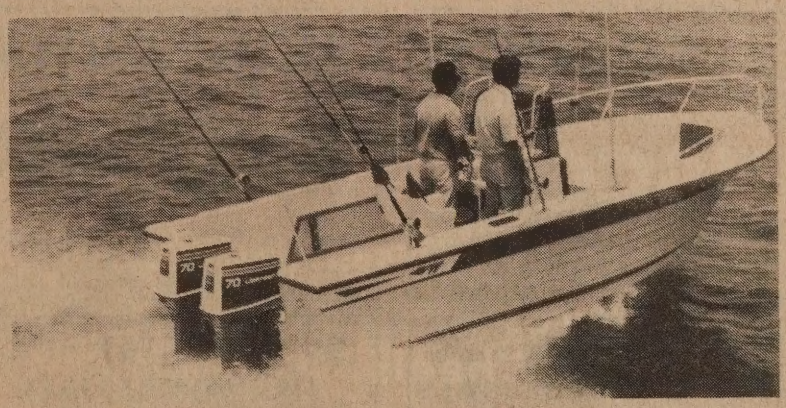

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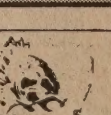

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Paul, Stuart and Harold Benson caught these 53 flounder with quite a few of these over 2 pounds. Photo courtesy of Tadsen's Fishing Sta.

WEST SAYVILLE

From **South Bay Fishing Station** comes news of an abundance of weakfish, fluke and blowfish. All were caught off buoys 4 and 5 and east of buoy 30 off Hechscher State Park. Bait used included salty dogs and Viking Shrimpies tipped with a bit of squid for the fluke and weaks. Fluke went to 5 pounds and weakfish are going 9 to 10. The blowfish were brought aboard with skimmer clams. The tides were 2 to 3 hours before low and two to three after high.

SAYVILLE

Young's Fishing Station reports a mixture of blowfish, flounder and fluke with the best at the top of the tide off Hechscher, particularly for weakfish on green salty dogs or bucktails in the green, clear, white and amber varieties with squid strip. The whole area is producing. Fluke off Heckscher are hitting nicely on squid strips fished on the bottom. Flounders can be found here and there on worms and clam.

EAST ISLIP

Wet-A-Line Bait and Tackle says the best bet is weakfish at Heckscher drifting sand worms and squid or Salty Dogs on the ebb. Fluke off Ocean Beach up to 4 pounds on squid and worms on all tides.

OAK BEACH

The Store reports lots of fluke under the bridge and on the north side of **The Store** in the back. John the Greek caught in the 40's with 14 keepers amongst them. Lots of short fish. Flounders good at the Sore Thumb on both sides of The Store. Weaks are spotty, best area now being the Lindenhurst flats. Try a big spearing on a bobber. 15 weaks to over 10 pounds were taken in this fashion by Joe the Roofer and son. The big news is shark. On Sunday Bob Contos using bunker chum got 75 macks, a scattering of chopper bluefish up to 12 pounds and 2 blue sharks, 80 and 110 pounds. He released two small brown sharks. Bob fished 180 degrees out of the inlet, running about 20 miles offshore. He saw a very big blue shark also, that he couldn't bait.

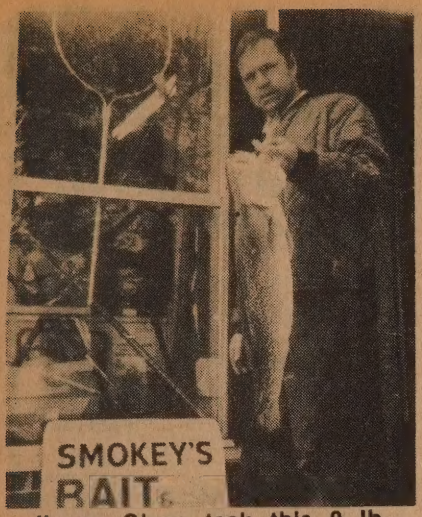
BAY SHORE

Smokey's Bait and Tackle tells us that Jim Olson of Bayshore had a 9 lb. weak on a Viking Shrimpie tipped with pork rind at Point-O-Woods on Tuesday night. The new leader in Smokey's Weakfish Contest is a 10 lb. 8 oz. tiderunner taken Friday night by Bayshore angler Pete Sindone. This contest ends on June 30th. Bill Rogers had 16 keeper fluke on Wednesday, fishing FII with sand eels and squid. Joe Bacchi of West Islip had an 8¼ lb. fluke fishing on Saturday at Dickerson's Channel with the good old Salty Dog tipped with pork rind. Flounders good on worms in the lighthouse area.

CAPTREE

Captain Gordon Roman of the **Captree Queen** reports that the weakfishing has been reliable in the eves all week, mainly fishing West Island and the flats off Heckscher. Best is west of Heckscher's buoy 3 on the flats. Friday, Sat. and Sun. an average of 20 to 40 weaks were taken each night from 4 to 8 pounds, mainly on Pink Salty Dogs. Some are being taken in West Channel and off Ocean Beach between buoys 11 and 13. The **Captree Queen** is holding strictly to its ad that it is limiting passengers to 28 per trip with fishing on one side of the boat only. It's a short season for weaks so cash in on it while you can. Fluke and flounders on the day trips are very good and Saturday was the best flounder day of the year, says Gordon. Fish are good size and there are plenty of them, up to 30 per

Charles and Thomas Romano with their catch of 63 flounder taken northeast of buoy 42 up to 2 pounds 9 ounces. Photo courtesy of Skidmore's Fishing Station.



Jimmy Olson took this 9 lb. weakfish at Point-O-Woods on a Pink Viking Shrimpie with a pork rind tail bait. Photo courtesy of Smokey's Bait and Tackle.

man.

The **Captain Rod** reported that the flounder fishing was good all week and on Saturday but started slowing down on Sunday. The fluke are beginning to take over so the boat is combining fluke with flounder fishing depending on the tides. Best areas for fluke have been in the inlet, around the bridge and in the state channel on any change of tide. Sand eels are the best bait, which is normal fare for this time of year.

Captain George Tweedy of the **Capt Scotty** reported that there has been plenty of action on the afternoon weakfishing trips the boat has been making. Between 20 and 35 weaks are taken per night with about 3 times as many being lost, providing plenty of action if not full bags. The Captain noted that the daytime weakfishing has been poor, so he has been mixing up the day with weaks, flounder and fluke.

Capt. Neil Delanoy of the charterboat **Lady Ann** called to say that on Sunday he combined fluke with flounder fishing, fishing for flounder in the morning at the Sore Thumb and fluke in the afternoon at the Robert Moses Bridge. About 150 flounder were taken during some very good fishing, and about 50 keeper fluke were boated. A stray 4 lb. bluefish was also taken while fluke fishing, hopefully a good sign for the near future. Neil said that they tried mackerel fishing on Saturday and only caught a few with much chasing around. They would find fish, but just couldn't hold them for some reason and Neil thinks it's all over. On the way home the boat stopped on a secret wreck and had an excellent catch of ling all sizes, 30 seabass and a few blackfish. The weakfishing has been good one day and poor the next, making fishing for them very erratic to say the least. The only consistency has been the change of tide has been providing the best action. On Thursday a 10 man charter took 175 flounder. Then the **Speedy VI** called on the radio to say that the weakfish were hitting. The **Lady Ann** sailed down to the hot spot and ten men took 18 weakfish from 6 to 9 pounds in short order. On Friday's dawn weakfish trip, 7 weaks were taken before 6 A.M. when everything seemed to die. In the afternoon the boat took 2 fluke on Salty Dogs while fishing in West Channel. They weighed in at 4 pounds even and 7 pounds 13 ounces.

Captain Speedy Hubert of the **Speedy VI** said that the weakfishing has been fair at night with 25 to 40 fish per trip, but the tiderunners just aren't biting well during the day with the exception of Thursday when 80 weakfish were taken by the boat in the north end of Range Channel. Weakfishing was poor on Friday and Saturday, but over 200 fluke were taken on Sunday in the inlet and around the bridge at the change of tide. There were a few throwbacks and the pool fish was 4 pounds. The Captain told us that a New Jersey boat, the "Miss Barnegat Light" reported seeing acres

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and acres of bluefish on top 55 miles off the beach on the way home from a tilefishing expedition, so it looks like a much better year for bluefishing than last is in the making.

BABYLON

Augie's Bait and Tackle tells us that Martha Brady of Lake Carmel N.Y. fishing on the Smarty Marty off the Coast Guard Station took 6 fluke including a 3¾ pounder. Nothing under 2 pounds. This was on sand eels and squid. Donald Kochanski, accompanied by his son and Hank Fischer had 13 weaks on Saturday ranging from 5 to 8 pounds at West Channel on Pink Salty Dogs with white heads. On Saturday Lou Dailey bagged 39 fluke from the inlet to the Coast Guard Station with six people aboard. All fish were taken on sand eels, squid and killies. A 2 lb. blue and 5 weaks from 5 to 8 pounds were taken on dogs for another angler in West Channel. Some sharpies are getting up to 30 weakfish per trip. Fair Harbor at Kismet saw hot surface action during the week. Big spearing on the bobber is a weapon being employed by the clammers with good results.

LINDENHURST

Charlie's Bait and Tackle reports that Steve Pace took an 8 pound 14 ounce weakfish in the weekend's Babylon Tuna Club weakfish contest, but the indefeatable Doc Grell, 5 minutes before the contest was to end, bagged a 9 pound plus weakfish to cop the contest. How

about them apples! Blues in 80 feet of water, just a smattering but these choppers ran 8 to 10 pounds and were taken by mackerel fishermen, due south of Jones Inlet. Blowfish are in the bay, happily eating anything. Flounders are at the Sore Thumb at its deepest spots and fluke are hitting nicely in the state channel on sand eels, squid and live killies.

COPIAGUE

Jonas Bait and Tackle tells of very good fishing over the weekend. Santo DeRedita of Bayside had 24 keeper fluke out of a catch of 42 fishing the state channel off the Babylon Cut with live killies and squid. Lots of fluke are being caught now. Weaks are spotty but Ocean Beach, the Heckscher flats at buoy 4 and West Island, Amityville Cut and the Copiague Hole on Pussy Cats, Viking Shrimpies and spearing is the way to go. Flounders still good at the Sore Thumb on blood and sandworms. Lots of whiting and mackerel offshore.

AMITYVILLE

George Combs Bait and Tackle says weakfish at Heckscher on red bucktails and plastic shrimp and Mr. Twisters. The best is sand worms drifted with a float or shrimp chum with sandworms on the hook. Hi-lo rigs with sandworms and killies are also dynamite. Joe Soka of Squadron Anglers took approximately 100 weaks in four trips this past week, on worms and red bucktails. Weaks at Unqua Pt. and Fort Neck Pt. in deep holes. Fluke and big blowfish in Zach's Bay, at the Wantagh Bridges and in Goose Creek. Killies and sand eels or squid works well. Flounders are good at the Third Wantagh, Gilgo heading, and the Sore Thumb on yellow dyed clam. Night fishing on the slack at the bridges with sand worm or live killies is doing nicely on weaks and occasional bass.

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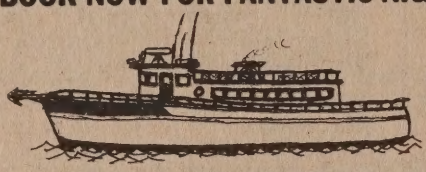

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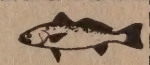
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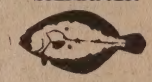
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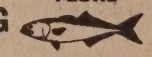
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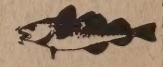
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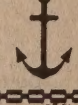

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MASSAPEQUA

Massapequa Tackle and Sports reports weakfish in the eve on drifted sandworms at the bridges and at the entrance to Zach's Bay and also at Harbor Green in the eve. Pussy Cats with squid strips twitched along the bottom is effective. Plenty of fluke in Jones Inlet on drifted sand eels or killies. Plenty of flounder at local hot spots such as Squaw Island, Massapequa Cove and off John Burns Park. Blacks at the T-wreck up to 6 pounds on fiddlers.

SEAFORD

Captain Jim Clarke called to say that he has choice dates available on his new 40' diesel powered **Invictus**, sailing out of Seaford. Jim formerly ran the Hustler out of Seaford.

Lon Wanser Bait and Tackle reports flounders still good with Squaw Island hot and just west of the Wantagh draw bridge producing well too. Sandworms are working very well, which is good since the size of bloodworms has shrunk. Fluking is very good with one customer bringing in over 50 keepers fishing sand eels off Short Beach. The inlet area is hot with Sloop Channel and Haunts Creek producing good fluke catches. Lon heard

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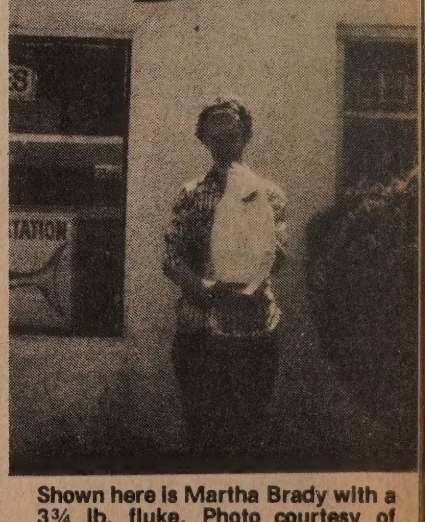


Shown here is Martha Brady with a 3¾ lb. fluke. Photo courtesy of Augie's Bait and Tackle.

of a couple of bass 20-30 pounds live baited at the 3rd Wantagh. A few seabass have also been taken inside.

BELLMORE

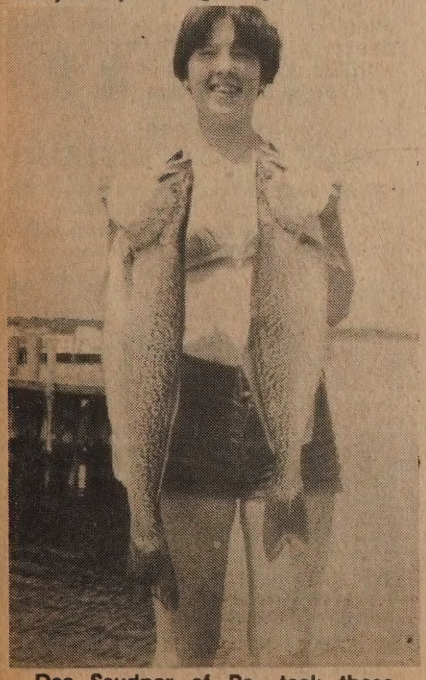
Merrick Marine Supplies reports hearing of some bass being chummed in the State Channel but exact whereabouts not known. Plenty of flounders at Four Corners on worms and mussel baits. Chumming helpful. Weakfish at Heckscher on both Pink Salty Dogs and on sand worms on a long leader fished on the bottom. Fluke on live killies, spearing and squid in Jones Inlet and Swift Creek.

MERRICK

Nick's Fishing Station reports Swift Creek and the Coast Guard Station being very good for fluke this past week and weekend on spearing, squid and sand eels, best on the flood. Kingfish, and blowfish have started to show and there is still a load of flounders waiting for you in Broad Creek and at the Merrick hole. A 20lb. striper was taken on clam chum at the Wantagh Bridge by Bellmore angler Dennis Newman. The "Marjon" had 500 pounds of tile over the weekend. 45 keeper fluke fell to Ray Cotti and two friends, fishing Swift Creek with sand eels and squid. Blackp fish are being taken now at the Rota Wreck and the bridges.

BALDWIN

Andy at **Arthur St. Fishing Station** reports that Dr. Hauling had weakfish off the Lido Motel in the early morning over the weekend and that Frank Lalima had fluke in Reynolds Channel to 5 pounds on spearing and squid this past week. Fluking is good and strong and nearly everyone is getting fish.



Dee Scudner of Pa. took these weakfish of 7 and 5¾ pounds on a salty dog with squid. Subscriber Club Photo.

N.Y. BIGHT Fishing Report

FREEPORT

Capt. Richie of the **StarStream II** reports that on Saturday and Sunday the mackerel fishing was slow and chasing them all over resulted in six to twenty mackerel per man on Saturday, and 30 on the whole boat for Sunday. When mackerel were not to be found, the Captain did some bottom fishing and came up with seabass and ling. The StarStream II will begin sailing for seabass and giant ling at 6:30 a.m. daily.

The **Aloma II** reports that on Saturday he had 20 people out and to their surprise, came up with over 70 nice sized keeper fluke in the 2-3½ pound range. On Sunday, the 35 fares aboard too 200 fluke, of which 140 were kept. The pool fish came in at four pounds.

The Aloma is experiencing some fantastic ling fishing east of the E. Rockaway Inlet, along with catches of a few seabass and whiting.

Capt. Charlie of the **Blue Fin Fleet** reports that the Blue Fin was flounder fishing on both Saturday and Sunday and did well before change in tide. He was fishing local waters with the best tide being incoming. The bigger fish were taken on skimmers.

The **Blue Fin II** was bottom fishing offshore on both Saturday and Sunday and took excellent catches of ling, whiting, pollock, mackerel, etc., averaging 25-30 fish per person. The boat had to return to the dock early because of the large quantity of fish taken. On Saturday, the pool was taken with a five pound pollock.

Captain Sy Karlin of the **Blue Fin II** called to say that he has just 9 openings for his upcoming tilefishing trip. If you want to get in on this action, better call immediately.

The **Capt. Lou II** reports flounder remains very good all week and weekend except for Wednesday. Plenty of fish still around and very fat. This weekend, Lou will fish for flounders and fluke combined in the one trip.

The **Capt. Hall** reports very good mackerel, ling and whiting fishing all week and weekend with some pollack thrown in. A new hole has been discovered west of Jones Inlet and there's tons of bottom fishing. Captain Dickey Hall is now switching over to fluke, sailing at 7:30 A.M. daily.

Capt. Joe Long of the charterboat **Night Owl** took LIF staffer Stu Miller on a late afternoon fluke trip south of the Loop Bridge on Thursday. A good job was done with Red Salty Dog heads and 3" strip baits rapidly jigged as the boat drifted on an incoming tide from the black buoy to the bridge. 14 keepers were taken in about 1 hours time. This was on Joe's 22' Chris Craft, the "Hunky-Dory."

Charterboat **Lucky Strike III** called to say that he had a party out in Swift Creek on Saturday and took 87 flounders and one fluke, flounders running from 1 to 2 pounds. A 2 lb. 9 oz. giant was taken by 16 year old Cheryl Green.

Kristin Rychalsky, 4, of Lynbrook caught 4 of these ten keeper fluke with a little help from his Uncle Anthony Saligure. These fish were caught in Reynolds Channel west of Jones Inlet. Subscriber Club Photo.

The **Captain Al** reports great ling, sea bass and whiting fishing with a few blacks thrown in. People are bagging up solid.

The charterboat **Miss Freeport** reports that on Wednesday he had Manhattan South Homicide charter his boat and he showed the group a good day's flounder fishing. On Saturday very good ling fishing was enjoyed on the eve trip. Sunday saw good fluke action for another party. Capt. Tony will be running as an open boat Saturday, Sunday, and Mon. on Memorial Day weekend.

Charterboat **Sea Egg** called to tell us that on Wednesday a charter drifted from Short Beach to the inlet taking 61 keeper fluke and over 200 whiting. Saturday's charter took fluke up to 6 pounds. The boat has open dates for fluke available. See ad for details.

Frank's Marina and Fishing Station reports that Frank Bowman with buddies Jeff and Doug took 9 fluke in 1½ hours in Swift Creek, fish up to 4 pounds on sand eels and squid. John Lampa boated 40 flounder just west of the Meadowbrook draw bridge on bloodworms and corn chum, at the telephone. Whiting and ling just outside.

Ronnie at **Sea Isle Sports** tells us that the fluking is excellent in Swift Creek all the way through Sloop Channel and that they are bigger than last year at this time. Flounders affording good action in Swift Creek also on worms and clam. Weakfish fished on high leader on sand worms at the bridges and mackerel buzzing all over the place. Blues have been taken in the nets and it looks like we'll have bluefish very soon.

Roy at **Mako Marina** tells us that Joe Long and mate took 49 keeper fluke on

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Sunday fishing Long Creek on squid, killies and sand eels. Joe owns the charterboat **Night Owl**. Capt. Bob Garraputa on the **Sun Down** had 46 keepers in the same place, same day, same method. Joe Masone took 75 tilefish on Saturday fishing in 475 feet of water on his boat "Debra."

POINT LOOKOUT

Ed's Fishing Station reports terrific fishing. The fluke are running very nice with an average of about 1 dozen keepers per boat using killies, spearing, squid and sand eels. These fish are being taken in Jones Inlet and Reynolds Channel. While drifting in the inlet fishermen are picking up whiting, ling and mackerel along with the fluke. The flounder are holding good in Swift Creek and in Reynolds Channel around buoys 18 and 20 on worms. They can also be found at Short Beach near the Coast Guard Station. Michael Peck and his 3½ yr. old daughter Dorothy caught 16 nice fluke in front of the station. Dorothy hooked a 3½ and a 4 lb. fluke and Dad had to help her bring them in. The blackfish are starting under the Meadowbrook and Long Creek Bridges and can be taken on fiddlers.

The **Marie III** reports beautiful fluke fishing with fish up to 3½ pounds being taken. The fluke being caught are about 50 percent keepers and a few have been coming up chewed on so this might mean that bluefish are in the area. The fishing is being done in Jones Inlet where the boat traffic has been wall to wall. These fish have been taken on sand eels or spearing with squid. The **Marie III** will be sailing open on May 26th, 27th and 30th.

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ISLAND PARK

The **Commodore** reports that on Friday, he was fishing E. Rockaway Inlet for fluke averaging 1½ to 2 pounds. Two individuals aboard took eight and nine fluke for the day.

On Saturday and Sunday, the fluke fishing slowed and for one-and-a-half hours they fished for ling and whiting and took a sack apiece.

Beckman's Tackle reports fishing good over the weekend. The flounder fishing is good in Reynolds Channel and in the inlets. Fluke fishing is still good with a 50 percent throwback. Blackfishing is excellent under the bridges using fiddlers. Mackerel are being taken in Debes Inlet and at Magnolia Pier in Long Beach.

JAMAICA BAY

Cross Bay Bait and Tackle reports that the flounder fishing is falling off at the North and South Channel Bridges. Bass fishing is good at the bridges. Weaks are being taken at the So. Channel Bridge. Blackfishing is good off Rockaway Beach and at the Marine Parkway Bridge.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

The **New Eagle** reports that their recent tile trip did very well with the pool being taken with a 47 pound fish. There are still openings for their June 5th trip. Call 212-934-2221 for information and reservations. The New Eagle was also bottom fishing, with catches of 100 pound bag per man, of whiting and ling.

The **Dorothy B** reports good fishing on the local wrecks, rocks and ledges. Eighty percent of the fish taken were ling, with a few seabass and fluke being taken every day. The Captain is fishing 45 minutes from the dock and within the next two weeks, he will be sailing for fluke.

The **Blue Sea III** reports excellent fishing, with bags and bags of ling and whiting being taken. Catches of 50 fish for low men and up to 150 fish per man of mostly ling, were taken.

The charterboat **Pina IV** out of Gerritisen Beach called to say that he nailed a 25 lb. striper on Saturday and 2 stripers weighing 5 and 12 pounds fishing Romer Shoals with amber tubes.

STATEN ISLAND

Santo's Sport Shop reports that Annadale Beach is producing bass up to 18 pounds on pencil poppers and popping plugs. Great Kills Park is producing bass up to 12 pounds but the fishing is slower here. Sand worms is the bait to use. Bass are being caught at Sailors Snug

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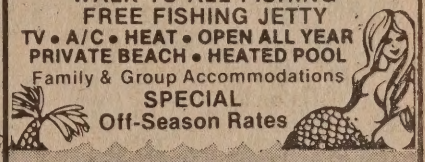
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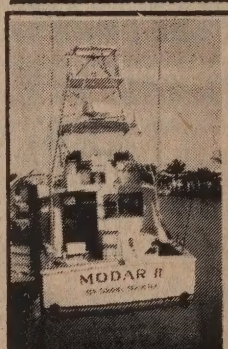

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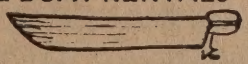

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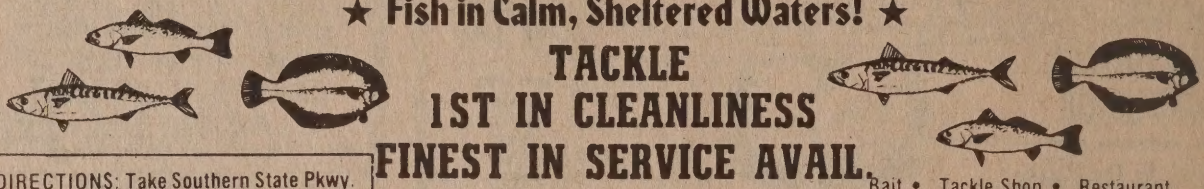

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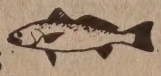

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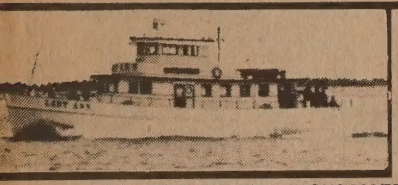

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NORTH SHORE Fishing Report

GREENPORT

The open boat **Wilhelric** reports very good night weakfishing with Friday night over 100 weakies being taken for 20 people, fish running from 9 to 11 pounds. On Friday night the infamous Scott Simons of LIF fame managed to catch 2 of these weakfish, while dropping three and having 4 broken off under the boat as fish frightened by his beard headed for the bottom. Saturday night was excellent also. Saturday's day trip saw over 300 porgies from 2 to 3 lbs. taken.

Captain George Porter of the **Brand X** called to say that the porgy fishing has been improving considerably every day at the Middle Grounds and Jessup's. The fish have been hitting on both tides. Weakfishing has been best by far at night when there is less boat traffic. On Saturday over 200 porgies were taken along with 35 weakfish. On Saturday night 7 anglers accounted for a great catch of 81 weakfish. Barry Lamb of N.J. was hi-hook with 21 fish 6 to 10 pounds. The captain said that two big doormat fluke were taken during the week at the Middle Grounds, one during the daytime and one at night. The doormats weighed 9¼ and 9¾ pounds respectively. George told us that the charterboat **Eleanor** has been cleaning up on flounders 1 to 4½ pounds on the sand bar between Gardiner's Island and the ruin. Trips have been averaging between 100 and 200 flounder.

Dave Greene of the **Pooka V** out of Greenport sent in an enthusiastic report of two dozen flounder taken from Gardiner's Bay, all running in the three pound range. This prior-to-the-weekend success slacked off a bit on Saturday, and on Sunday, the crowded waters hindered the takes. A few porgies up to three pounds, were caught in the middle area of Peconic Bay. Bonanza is open boat night fishing for weakfish; 100 were caught Friday night, eight-nine pounds. Dave says that it's shame more people aren't taking advantage of the super fishing to be done after the sun sets.

A.P. White Bait Shop reports that night weakfishing has been very good but there was a tough time catching them over the weekend because of the boat traffic. Flounder can be taken off Gardiner's Island on worms.

SOUTHOLD

Bill at **Port of Egypt** said the weakfishing last Saturday was very good. Private boats did excellent, and if Bill had to rate the fishing, he would say the numbers are good and the size of the fish are excellent. The average is from five to ten pounds, with many eight to ten pounders. Last Saturday, a party

Harbor and Jersey St. and range from shorts up to 3 pounds. Flounder fishing is still good at Piers 17 and 18. Blackfish averaging 1½ to 2 pounds and up to 5 pounds are being taken at the Great Kills rock jetty and at the Old Home Dock. Blues in the 9 lb. class are being taken off Richmond Ave on cut bait. Bass up to 24 pounds can be taken at West Bank and Romer Shoals on Montauk bunker spoons.

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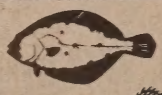

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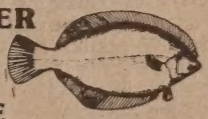

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from Paris, France took an 11 pound, 8 ounce weakfish. The best location is from buoy 16, down to 17 and 18. Another is Greenlawns off of Shelter Island. Porgies have started, with the biggest so far being four pounds. The best location is buoy 17 and 18. One regular had a bushel full this past Sunday. Another group took 200 pounds last Saturday at buoy 17. A few random blacks were around, plus some eight-nine pound fluke being taken. Some fellows are fishing the west side of Gardiner's Bay for fluke. Some nice flounder are around if you know where to go.

NEW SUFFOLK

Capt. Marty's Fishing Station had quite a few boats out over the weekend with Saturday being the best day. Weakfish are being taken south of buoy 25 and 30. Bob Santiago and Perry Cohen took 51 weakfish from 6 to 8 pounds at Cows Neck on Salty Dogs and Bingle Dandy Lures. Porgies are being taken south of buoy 23. William Walters took 200 porgies south of buoy 23 up to 2½ pounds. Some nice blackfish are being taken from 6 to 10 pounds. Fluke fishing is improving south of buoy 23 in the Rose's Grove area on squid and salty dogs. Flounder averaging 1½ pounds are being taken at the Steps in the Rose's Grove area.

James Miller of Long Island City with a 4 lb. 1 oz. porgy taken on the west side of buoy 18. Photo courtesy of Port of Egypt Fishing Station in Southold.

AQUEBOGUE

The story of the week from **Warren's Tackle Center** is there are some big porgies taken here and there. Weakfish are being taken in the South Race and Robbins Island. White bucktails and Salty Dogs with squid, are what everyone is using. Nick Cypress and Nick Caloria took 17 weaks up to 10 pounds, 14 ounces last Saturday. The fish seem to be moving around; consequently not everyone is scoring. A few small bass were picked up along the beach. Some nice big flounder are around, and there's good blackfishing in all the rocky areas.

Warren's Bait and Tackle old customer Joan Roberts took an 11½ lb. weakfish at buoy 30 in the South Race, Joan reports.

JAMESPORT

Jamesport Bait and Tackle reports that porgies and weaks are being taken in the South Race and also in the Sound. Good sized blacks are starting to show on both sides while flounder fishing is still good at the buoy 9 area.

ROCKY POINT

Rocky Pt. Fishing Stop reports fantastic fishing over the weekend. School bass up to 12½ pounds are being taken along the north shore beaches at night. You can catch these fish on Tri-Fin Whiptails Red Fins and sinking Rebels anywhere from Sound Beach to Wading River. Best catches have been had on the falling tide after dark. Weakfish are being taken at buoy 11 along with stripers. Blackfish are in the rocky areas and being taken on crabs, worms and clams. The flounder fishing is still holding up along with the mackerel. Some fluke are being taken while flounder fishing at buoy 11.

SELDEN

Angler's Den reports they are murdering the mackerel all over the Sound in the early morn and eve. Weakfish are mixed in with these mackerel. Flounders are still around and porgies and sea bass are starting to show. Some bass are being taken in the Cedar Beach area. Fluke are starting to show in the buoy 11 area. Some bluefish were taken in Moriches Inlet over the weekend.

MT. SINAI HARBOR

Dick's Sporting Goods reports that mackerel fishing is still excellent with these fish coming into the beach many times each day. Some weakfish are being taken while fishing for mackerel. Big blacks are starting to show up to 12

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Clif Brown, Marshall Robinson and Wally Robertson caught these 20 weakfish up to 10 pounds and 4 porgies up to 2 pounds southwest of buoy 30 on squid and skimmer clams. Photo courtesy of Capt. Marty's Fishing Station.

pounds. Flounder are still in the harbor and in the Sound. Bass fishing has been excellent in the early morning and evening along the beaches.

Ralph's Fishing Station reports that the mackerel fishing is starting to slow down with the morning being the best time to catch these Bostons. They can be taken at buoy 11 with a mackerel rig and diamond jig. Blackfishing is starting to pick up along the shoreline from Miller Place to Cedar Beach up to 8½ pounds. Some nice porgies up to 2 pounds are being taken straight out of the inlet about ¼ to ½ mile on worms and clams. Flounder are slowing down but they are still there if you want them. Weakfishing is not good as of yet but they are starting to pick up.

PORT JEFFERSON

The **Betty W** reports blackfishing is good to excellent all week long. On Friday 9 men on the open boat took 150 blacks, porgies and sea bass. These blacks are running up to 11 pounds. Lou Fenza of E. Northport was hi-hook with 20 blacks. On Saturday and Sunday fishing turned slow but mackerel, blacks whiting and sea bass were taken. The Captain said that the bottom fishing should improve once again.

Caraftis Fishing Station said there are plenty of macks still around. Mixed in with the macks are some whiting on the bottom. Ernie Hughes, fishing 1,000 feet off the East Jetty last Friday, took 26 weaks. Blacks are hitting good at Oldfield Point. Some flounder at Oldfield Point and Mt. Misery. You might also get some porgies, a stray fluke or a sea bass or two.

KINGS PARK

Bob from **Mae's Way Fishing Station** reports that the weekend fishing was terrific. Flounder and mackerel were in abundance and sea bass, porgies, weakfish and blackfish were mixed in with the catches. One sharp shooter who would not leave his name came in with two stripers of 4 and 8 pounds taken off Crane's Neck. On Saturday Sebastian and John Piacento had a 5 gallon pail full of flounder with a few big blackfish mixed in. On Friday Roger Olson fishing alone had 40 flounder and blacks up to 8 pounds off Callahan's Beach. On Sunday Francesco Perez and friend Bob had a great catch of flounder, blacks and sea bass up to 4 pounds. The water in the Sound must still be pretty cold for this weekend they had whiting, tommy cod, ling and a conger eel mixed in with bottom fishermens catches.

NORTHPORT

Tom at **Bowman's Sporting Goods**, said everything is in except the blues. Flounder are very good, with sizes the biggest kind. Off Eaton's Neck C.G. and between the C.G. Station and Nauset Beach are the best locations. The fish are running between two and three pounds. Two hundred yards offshore is the best bet. Felows are picking up blacks and porgies in most rocky areas. Porgies up to two pounds were also reported off Callahan's Beach and Sand City. Crabs and worms fished on the high tides are working best. A 7½ pound fluke was taken off Ashroken Beach last Saturday. Drifting fishing is the best here. Mackerel are still around, though they're starting to thin out. Some fellows did well, but others got skunked. Fellows using bunker chum are doing very well. Try a couple miles out between 11B and the loading platform. In the evening, some bass hit on outgoing water on clam chum and skimmers fished by the C.G. Station. Sizes run 7-15 pounds. Surf fishermen are using Kastmasters, Hopkins and other silver jigs. Weakfish aren't thick just yet, but are being taken. Drift a Salty Dog with squid strip for weaks in Centerport Harbor. There were reports of some blues around Staten Island, so it appears they are on their way.

Fred at **The Chain Locker** reports that flounder and blacks are still evident at Callahan's Beach. Blacks from 3 to 11 pounds are being taken southwest of the east bar of Eaton's Neck on fiddler or green crabs. Striper action in the morning at Willets Grove, Target Rock, Marshall Field, and off the lighthouse at Eaton's Neck using plugs, eels, eelets and Rebels. Most of these fish are schoolies but some do run into the teens. This is the time for wire line trollers to begin fishing the rips at Eaton's Neck. Clam chummers are starting to hit bass at the rips at Eaton's Neck. Weakfish are being taken in the hole southeast of Centerport and in the entrance to Duck Island Harbor. Sharpies Al Craz and Ed Jones came in with 7 tiderunners along with smaller ones from 6½ to 11 pounds caught on Pink Salty Dogs and squid. Some fish were also taken drifting worms on a high hook. Mackerel are still around east and west of the Lilco Loading Platform and are chasing the sand eels which are covering the Sound. Fluke are being caught east and west of buoy 13 and off Diamond Pt. on squid combos with sand eels or killies. They have all been large fish and Fred has not seen a throwback yet.

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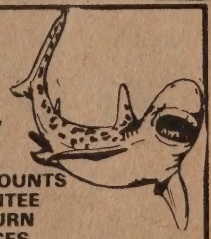

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FIFTH YEAR OF PRODUCTION-The ultimate fluke killer rig. Deadly, double hook design, long the secret weapon of the "pros." You'll hook more and lose fewer fish, since fluke can't avoid adjustable tail hook. Each rig hand tied, finest materials used. 3 rigs for $3.50. Send check or money order to P. Miller, 150 Babylon Tpke., Merrick, N.Y. 11566. Pays for itself in fluke dinners.

FLOUNDER KILLER RIGS—Flounders are committing suicide on this widely-used 3-hook rig, especially designed for the "Meat Fisherman." Special design and construction keeps tangling of hooks at a minimum. Handmade, finest materials. 3 completely tied rigs for $3.50. Send check or money order to P. Miller, 150 Babylon Turnpike, Merrick, NY 11566.

OUTRIGGERS: 10' brass outriggers w/stays and 13' Fiberglas rods for extending outrigger. $100. Call 668-5130 after 6.

WANTED: "TOURNAMENT" Gin pole with swing arm. In good condition. Contact 518-248-5649. 515-294-0483.

MISCELLANEOUS

DOCK SPACE FOR RENT—Woodcleft Canal, Freeport. Up to 55'. 516-FR 9-2753.

BOAT INSURANCE—ALL RISK—12 Month Navigation. Low, Low Rates. Budget Payments. Machinery damage included. Fishing Boat liability. Arthur A. Isakson, 196 No. Central Avenue, Valley Stream, NY. Call 516 VA 5-4338 day or night.

ATTENTION BOAT OWNERS: Need your boat transported? Outboards and Inboards up to 32 ft. Specializing in Launching and Hauling at your local ramps. Prompt reliable service. Insured carriers. Bill and Bill Boat Transport Ltd. Call 516-277-3440.

FREE CATALOG—Expanded Do-It-Yourself mold section. Cast plastic or lead. 41 original soft plastic lures. 5 sizes. Shrimp: plus eels, worms, squid, etc. All supplies. Many specials. VIKING, 1306 North Road, Elizabeth City, N.C. 27909.

FREE CB BENCH CHECKS, fast repairs, FCC technicians. Call any day, any time. If we can't fix it, nobody can. HEINE MARINE ELECTRONICS, 250 Montauk Highway, Islip. 581-0194.

GILLNET 350'x13'x3-3/4" Mesh, floats, flags, weights. Fully assembled & carrying box. $300. Commercial meat grinder. Great for making chum. Extra blades, heavy duty motor $125. Large Sears stand-up Freezer $100. 12-man Buoyant apparatus U.S.C.G. approved for commercial vessels $175. D. Pigott, 16 Floral Ave., Bethpage, N.Y. 11714.

REAL ESTATE

DEER RUN ESTATES—For sportsmen and nature lovers. Subdivision roads now being constructed in the southern CATSKILL MOUNTAINS. Two hour drive from Long Island to excellent deer, small game and fishing areas. (38) wooded parcels, 2¼ to 6 acres, less than $3000 per acre, less than 10 percent down, balance of (15) years held by owners. For additional information, call 516-666-6171.

HAMPTON BAYS - FISHERMAN SPECIAL. Directly on Tiana Bay. Heated housekeeping cottages. 2 people $65; 4 people $80. Free boats, dock, beach specials Memorial weekend. THE CEDARS, 30 Rampasture Rd. Hampton Bays, N.Y. 11946. 516-364-2997 - 516-728-9528.

LINDENHURST WATERFRONT: Custom Split Level 4 bedrooms, 1½ baths, large living room, formal dining room, eat-in-kitchen, attic, crawl basement, garage, 40' bulkhead, Many extras. $45,000. Call 516 226-4620.

LINDENHURST WATERFRONT. 40x100 bulkheaded dock. House like new. Aluminum siding, 2 bdrm, living and dining room. Face water, all glass. Near Bay. Lovely view. 226-8506.

EVINRUDE DEALER WANTS CANVAS SHOP ON PROPERTY, building for rent to right man. Call Tom's Outboard Service, Monticello, N.Y. 914-794-9514.

USED BOAT SALES, FISHING STATION, Sailmaker, etc. Ideal Waterfront location in Island Park Area. Commercially zoned. Can be rented or leased with or without living quarters. Minimum investment required. Tel: 516-GE 2-0412.

BALDWIN HARBOR OPEN BAY. 120' Beach, dock. Prestigious Brick 4 BR, 3 bath. 20x30' LR WITH FIREPLACE, Cathedral ceiling. Magnificent view. Brand new kitchen, den, sunporch. Exclusive. $128,000. JOYCE BAYER WATERFRONTS. 516-378-1175. 516-541-2721.

BEACH BUGGIES

1975 11½' Franklin Side-on Custom Camper - like new. Sleeps 6. Lots of extras. Set up for fishing. Call 212-885-1609.

1972 Toyota Landcruiser Hardtop, warn hubs, dual heaters, new tires, carpeted. 56,000 miles. Snow plow and utility trailer available. $2100. 842-0095.

1971 Scout II. 40,000 miles, new paint, tires, wheels, air shocks, class III hitch. Excel. cond. $2300. 473-1215. 473-0152.

1968 Jeep Jeepster. 4 wheel drive, locking hubs, good rubber, plow, new rear end, new rear brakes. $1350. 212-945-2290.

(Continued from page 23.)

bottom with as little drag from the rod and reel as possible. In order to accomplish this, the rod tip must be pointed directly at the jig, which is falling away to the bottom at about a thirty degree angle to the boat. When the jig touches bottom, a little slack will appear in the line. At that precise moment, the reel's clutch must be engaged and a few turns of the handle must follow. After the fisherman retrieves a few yards of line, he or she must pause for a moment , and then allow the jig to return to the bottom. When the lure touches bottom for a second time, the clutch must again be engaged and a few turns of line be retrieved. The bass, blues, and/or weaks usually hit the lure either immediately after it touches bottom, or when the fisherman pauses. During the pause, the lure flutters as it rises slowly off the bottom, pushed towards the surface by the strong tide.

At times, the angler will feel almost no hit at all. The game fish seem to barely inhale it. At other times, however, the fish will hit with the enthusiasm of a freight train rolling down a fifty-mile stretch of straight track. The fisherman has his or her hands full, since the strength of the fish and the tide work together to move away from the boat.

Most newcomers to this technique find it tough to master at first, until they understand the principal behind the approach. You see, when the current catches the bait, it tends to bounce them around pretty good. The bait may be bounced off the bottom and then, as they are swept towards the elevation, the tide will force them to the surface. The bait will try to swim against the current, but they do not have the strength. Therefore, they will appear to flutter upwards, which is exactly what the diamond jig is doing.

The first ten feet off the bottom is the key zone in this type of fishing, and the lure is retrieved rapidly after the second bounce and pause. It's a very rewarding type of fishing, because the fisherman can feel the full strength of the fish and because the fisherman is constantly in the thick of the action. Even when you're not catching fish, you must concentrate on the technique.

Montauk and diamond jigs. It's a lot of fun—spring, summer, and fall!

LOWEST PRICES ON L.I.
RIMS FOR TIRES
PRICE BREAKTHROUGH!
CASH&CARRY SALE!
4 1100x15 ARMSTRONG TRU-TRACS and 4 15x8 White Rims
LIMITED SUPPLY—INCLUDES F.E.T.
$330.95
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WOULDN'T YOU RATHER BE FISHING?

27' SPORTFISHERMAN

wide 10 FT. BEAM
230 H.P. INBOARD
127 GALLON FUEL TANK
FULL COVERS • 2 BERTHS

$12,995

ALSO AVAIL. IN FLY BRIDGE MODEL

20' CENTER CONSOLE SPORTFISHERMAN BY PRO-LINE

Powered by 70 H.P. Evinrude

$5595

SUFFOLK MARINE CENTER
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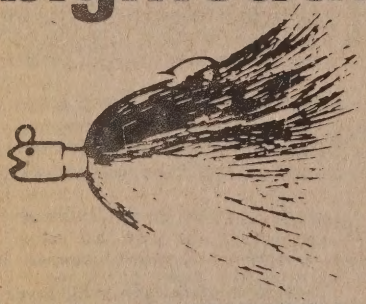
I Hope I Never Lose My

bigmouth



BE A WINNER!

May 15th, 1976—John Bodgan set the I.G.F.A. World Record with a 14-lb. 12 oz. Weakfish. He fished in the Great Peconic Bay, N.Y. with a 3/16 oz. M&M Bigmouth on 12-lb. test line. 34" long, 20½" girth.

M&M BIGMOUTHS are tied with Yak Hair. Yak Hair is imported natural animal animal hair with more proven resiliency and durability than bucktail!!!

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

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M&M FISHING TACKLE
311 Birdseye St., Stratford, Conn. 06497

HUNTINGTON

Ronnie's Bait and Tackle reports striped bass fishing very good off Whitewood Pt. and Marshall Fields on trolled worms, casted swimming Rebels and Tri-Fin red eel worms. Weaks and fluke are mixed at Diamond Pt. using a hi-lo rig with sand eels and squid on the bottom and a whole sand worm on top. Flounders are still very good just east of Eaton's Neck on sand worms and mussel chum. Blackfishing is improving at Eaton's Neck and Morris Rock on fiddlers and clam, with high incoming best. Still plenty of mackerel deep, northeast of Eaton's Neck.

George Valentine at **Four Winds Bait and Tackle** reports that on Saturday Vic Genco took a 29 lb. bass on a red Tri-Fin Eelworm at Diamond Pt. The weakfish are also taking the Tri-Fin eels up to 9 pounds in Cold Spring Harbor. Weakfish have also been taken at Whitewood Pt. and at the Sewannaka Yacht Club. Flounder up to 1¼ pounds are being taken off Marshall Field and Ashroken. Porgies from 1 to 3 pounds are being taken off Sand City on worms. Large blackfish are mixed in with the porgies in the same area.

GLEN COVE

Glen Cove Sports Shop reports that blackfishing broke loose at Pryble Beach On Saturday one man had 18 blacks up to 9 pounds using fiddler and green crabs for bait. Bass are being taken trolling, on chunk baits and on plugs off Gull Rock. Bob Sztorc took a 5 lb. 4 oz. bass on a fly rod using a white bucktail in the Sluiceway. Weakfish are breaking loose and a lot of these fish are being taken while mackerel fishing. Flounder are tapering off now. Fluke are starting at Matinecock Pt. using squid and sand eels.

CITY ISLAND

Jack at **Jack's Bait & Tackle** said there's a lot of mackerel still around and blackfishing is pretty good. Still getting flounders and quite a few school bass. No bigger fish reported yet, with the biggest about seven pounds. the **Ebb Tide** and the **North Star** are doing excellent on the mackerel. They leave at 7:30 and 8:30, and have been coming in by Noon all week. People were tired of catch fishing. The 9:00 a.m. boat, the **Apache** has been fishing for flounder and blacks and said they are getting good hauls.

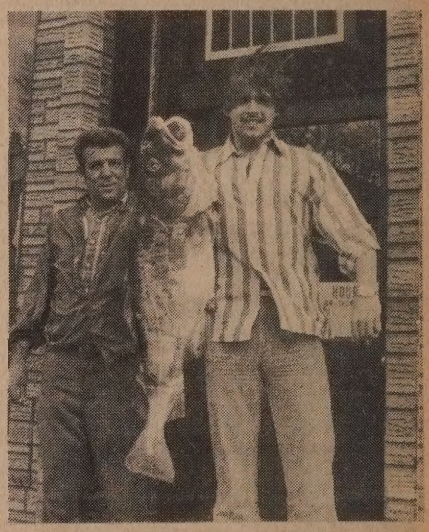
NEW ROCHELLE

Capt. Pete Pearson of the **Klondike VI**, reports the special trip he made last week produced pollock and some cod, with fish going from 10 to 30 pounds. Lots of the fish taken out on the Block Island Grounds went 20 to 30 pounds. That trip accounted for 400 fish! Pete might make another trip this coming weekend, but you better call to make sure. May has been a real good month, but June should be better.

GROTON CONN.

Capt. George Glas of the **Hel-Cat** reports that it is time for a change. Starting this coming weekend, the **Hel-Cat** will be fishing the fluke rips off Montauk. Last year, when fluking was added to the schedule between the end of the cod fishing and the beginning of the bluefishing season, it caught on like crazy. As a matter of fact, we'll be running a Fluke Fiesta. The angler catching the biggest fluke of the season to be awarded a custom built rod and reel. The Fish of the Week Award will still continue. As to how long we'll be running for fluke, Capt. Brad Glas, who knows the Montauk rips like the back of his hand says, "We'll fish for fluke 'till the blues start to chew on them and drive them out. Then we'll start to work on the blues."

Capt. Brad has been hammering at the fluke off Montauk since those fish returned to the area. This species had become scarce for many years, but then the cycle changed and they came back in force. His former vessel, the Helen II, came to be known as one of the top fluke boats out of Montauk.



Bob Roberts of Ridgefield made the trip to Montauk where he brought home this 37 lb. cod caught aboard the "Peconic Queen."

FOR: • Cap • Jacket • Tie • Car or Boat Dash

STRIPED BASS PIN

BLUEFISH ALSO AVAIL.

—SHOWN ACTUAL SIZE—

ALL METAL • GOLD or SILVER FINISH

SEND $4.75 Ck. or M.O. to:
P. Miller, 150 Babylon Tpke., Merrick, N.Y. 11566

HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-PORT AM	BRIDGE-PORT PM	NEW-PORT AM	NEW-PORT PM	DATE
THUR	2:20	2:59	2:53	3:43	2:25	3:20	3:53	4:38	5:23	5:58	5:56	6:29	1:56	2:49	5/26
FRI.	3:20	3:54	3:57	4:39	3:25	4:18	4:53	5:31	6:22	6:57	6:54	7:24	2:58	3:50	5/27
SAT.	4:17	4:49	4:57	5:35	4:31	4:21	5:51	6:24	7:25	7:56	7:53	8:19	4:04	4:51	5/28
SUN.	5:15	5:44	5:55	6:28	5:42	6:18	6:49	7:14	8:29	8:57	8:49	9:13	5:09	5:49	5/29
MON	6:08	6:35	6:51	7:23	6:45	7:14	7:43	8:05	9:32	9:55	9:44	10:06	6:12	6:44	5/30
TUE	7:01	7:26	7:46	8:14	7:41	8:05	8:37	8:55	10:35	10:52	10:38	10:56	7:08	7:35	5/31
WED	7:54	8:18	8:40	9:06	8:36	8:57	9:29	9:46	11:33	11:46	11:30	11:48	8:01	8:25	6/1
THUR.	8:46	9:10	9:35	9:58	9:31	9:50	10:24	10:39	—	12:28	—	12:23	8:52	9:15	6/2

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	— 0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	— 0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	— 0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	— 0 12
Seaside Park	— 0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	— 0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	— 0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	— 0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	— 0 02
Rehoboth Beach	— 0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	— 0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	— 0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	— 0 38
Democrat Point	— 0 38
Coast Guard Station	— 0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	— 0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	— 0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	— 0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	— 0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	— 0 08
Herod Point	— 0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	— 0 20
Truman Beach	— 0 42
Falkner Island	— 0 13
Sachem Head	— 0 10
Branford Harbor	— 0 07
New Haven Harbor	— 0 08
Milford Harbor	— 0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	— 0 03
Saugatuck River	— 0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	— 0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	— 0 14
Montauk Inlet	— 0 25
Montauk Point	— 1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	— 0 33
Noank, Mystic River	— 0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	— 0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	— 0 10
Execution Light	— 0 06
Manhasset Bay	— 0 01
Hempstead Harbor	— 0 11
City Island	— 0 03
Rye Beach	— 0 28
Port Chester	— 0 09
Mamaroneck	— 0 08
New Rochelle	— 0 24
Davids Island	— 0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	— 0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	— 0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	— 0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	— 0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	— 0 08
Point Judith Harbor	— 0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	— 0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

5/6	5:50	8:04
5/11	5:44	8:09
5/16	5:39	8:14
5/21	5:34	8:19
5/26	5:31	8:24

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
5/18	5/26	5/3	5/10

The Original Knight SOLUNAR TABLES When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
THURS.	11:45	6:10	—	6:35
FRI.	12:20	6:55	12:30	7:20
SAT.	1:05	7:40	1:35	8:15
SUN.	1:50	8:25	2:30	8:55
MON.	2:35	9:15	3:10	9:45
TUES.	3:35	10:10	4:00	10:40
WED.	4:20	11:05	4:55	11:40
THURS.	5:15	—	5:55	12:15

Berkley Trilene:

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

Berkley Trilene Fishing Line is unconditionally guaranteed. If the line does not perform to your satisfaction, we'll buy it back or replace it . . . at your option. Send it to Berkley and Company, Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360. For cash refund, include sales slip as proof of purchase.

If you don't like it, we'll buy it back.

That's the Trilene confidence that comes with every spool of Trilene line. We've been using that guarantee for over 15 years. Folks in Northwest Iowa don't throw money around, so you know we aren't getting much back.

We offer the Trilene guarantee for two reasons:

1) We know Trilene is the best fishing line made . . . and we want you to know that we believe in it so you can, too.
2) And we want you to try Trilene. To test it against the cheap line you're using now (or even the premium line you're using now.) We think that once you try it you'll be a confirmed Trilene user.

It just makes sense: When you put a lot of money into your tackle, and a lot more to get to your favorite fishing spot, why take a chance on ruining the whole investment with cheap fishing line? Your rod may be great and your reel even better, but it's the line that pulls 'em in.

See your Berkley Trilene dealer. Spool up and give Trilene a try. We're betting you'll like it better than any line you've ever used.

As a matter of fact, we guarantee it.

Trilene: The best fishing line made. Period.

Berkley

Berkley and Company
Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360